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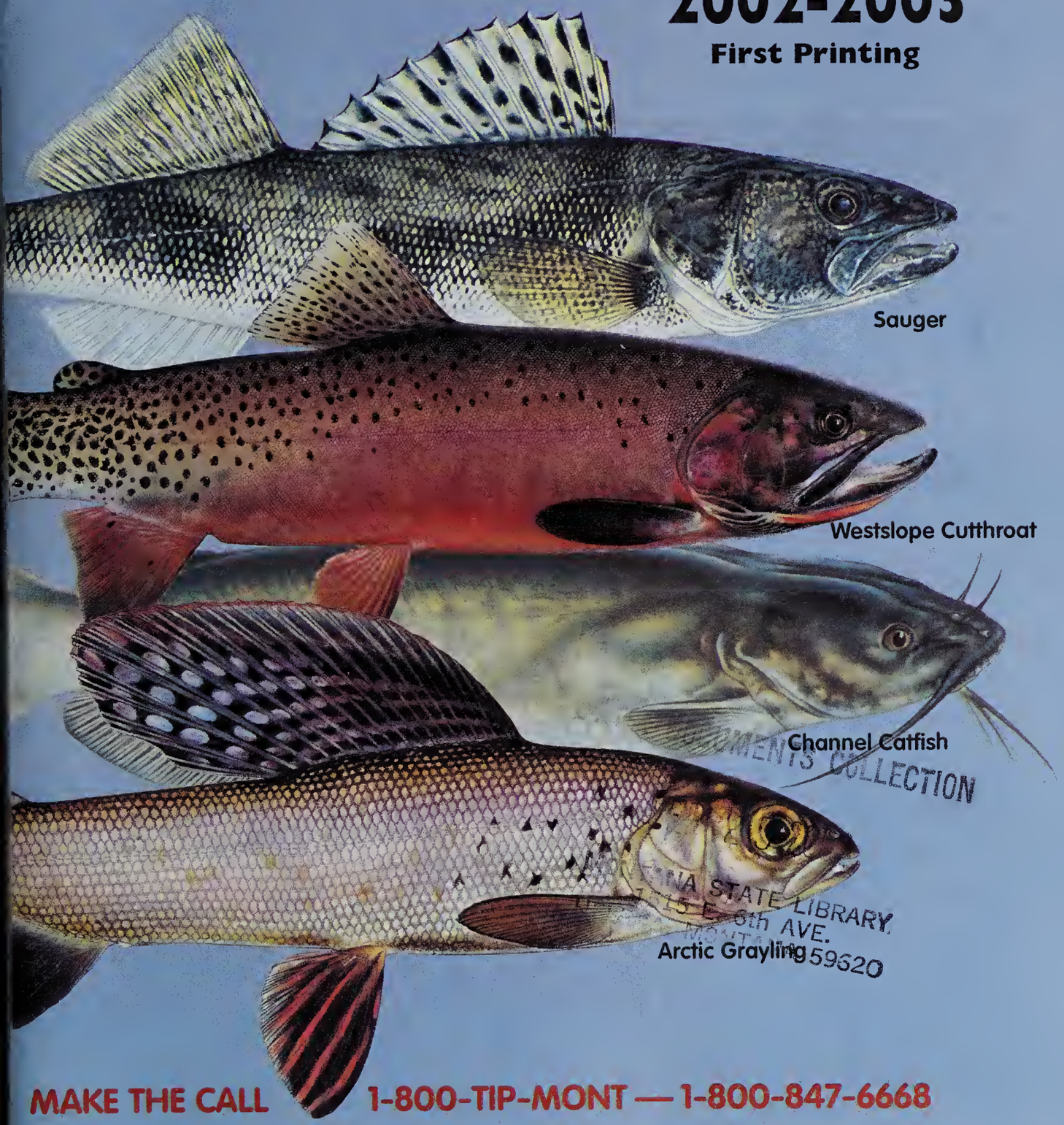
2002-2003

# MONTANA fishing REGULATIONS

## 2002-2003

**First Printing**

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**MAKE THE CALL 1-800-TIP-MONT — 1-800-847-6668**

# Protect Native Species
# If you don't know, let it go!

Key to identification:

***CUTTHROAT TROUT*** are frequently mistaken for rainbow trout (see pictures below):

1. Turn the fish over and look under the jaw. Does it have a red or orange stripe? If yes—the fish is a cutthroat trout. Carefully release all cutthroat trout that may not be legally harvested (see page 11).

***BULL TROUT*** are frequently mistaken for brook trout or lake trout (see pictures below):

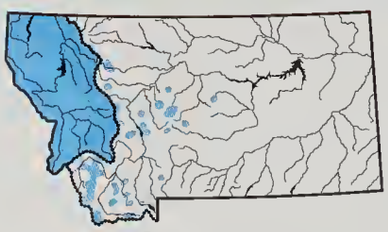
1. Look for white edges on the front of the lower fins. If yes—it may be a bull trout.
2. Check the shape of the tail. Bull trout have only a slightly forked tail compared to the lake trout's deeply forked tail.
3. Is the dorsal (top) fin a clear olive color with no black spots or dark wavy lines? If yes—the fish is a bull trout. Carefully release bull trout (see page 11).

***MONTANA LAW REQUIRES:***

- All bull trout must be released immediately in Montana waters except Swan Lake.
- Cutthroat trout must be released immediately in many Montana waters. Check the district standard and special regulations to know where you can harvest cuthroat trout.

## Native Sport Fish

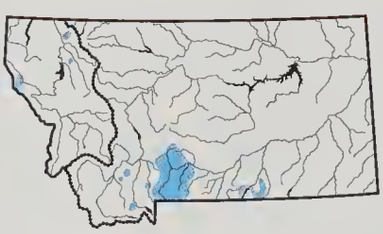
### Westslope Cutthroat Trout—*Species of Special Concern*



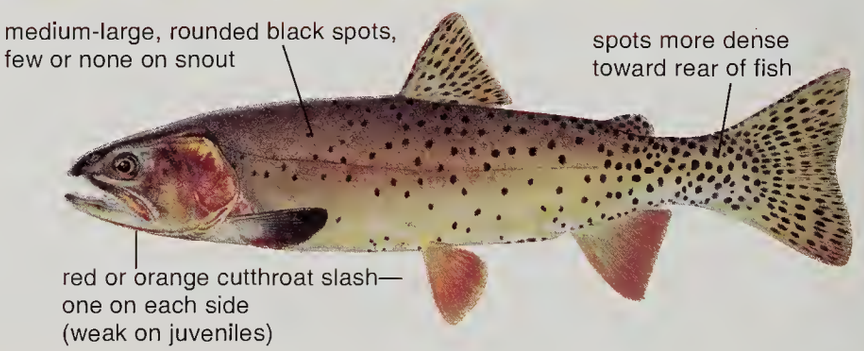
Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 16lb
Red Eagle Lake, 1955

small, irregularly shaped black spots, sparse on belly
cutthroat slash—one on each side
spots more dense toward rear of fish

### Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout—*Species of Special Concern*

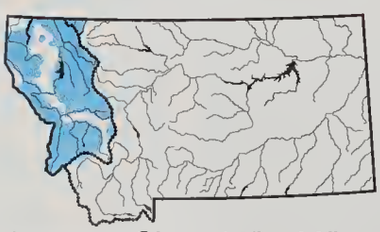


Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 16lb
Red Eagle Lake, 1955


medium-large, rounded black spots, few or none on snout
spots more dense toward rear of fish
red or orange cutthroat slash—one on each side (weak on juveniles)

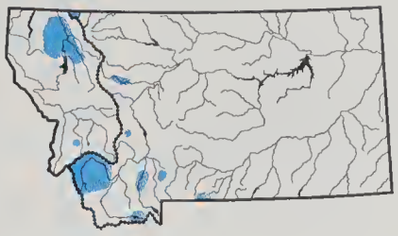
### Bull Trout—*Species of Special Concern*

***A Threatened Species listed under the Endangered Species Act***



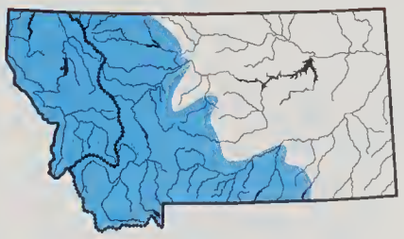
Average Size: 16" - 22"
MT Record: 25.63 lbs., 37"
Location unknown, 1916

## Artic Grayling—*Species of Special Concern*



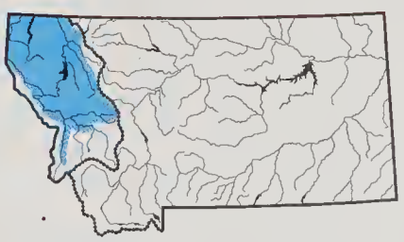
Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 3.21 lbs., 20.9"
Handkerchief Lake, 1994

## Mountain Whitefish



Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 5.09 lbs., 21.14"
Kootenai River, 1987

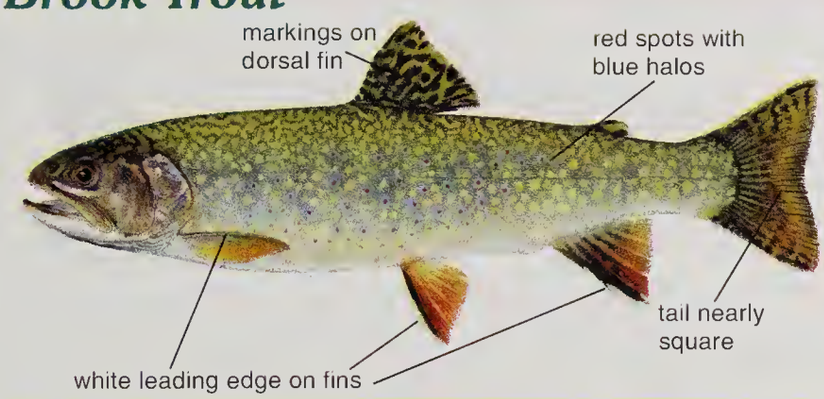
## Northern Pikeminnow

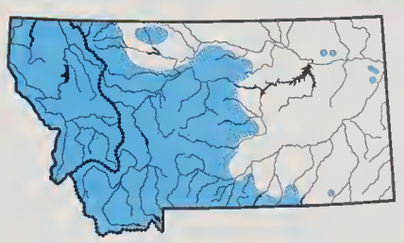


Average Size: 7" - 14"
MT Record: 7.88 lbs., 27.125"
Noxon Rapids Reservoir, 1991

# Non-Native Sport Fish

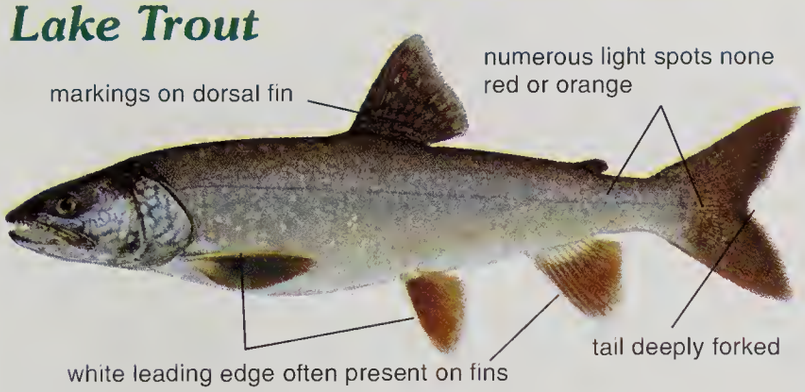
## Brook Trout

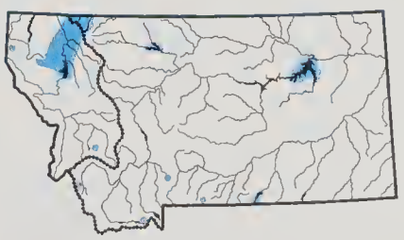


Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 9.06 lbs.
Lower Two Medicine Lake, 1940

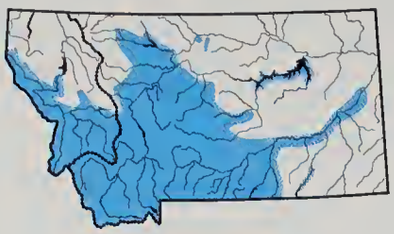
## Lake Trout


markings on dorsal fin
numerous light spots none
red or orange
tail deeply forked
white leading edge often present on fins

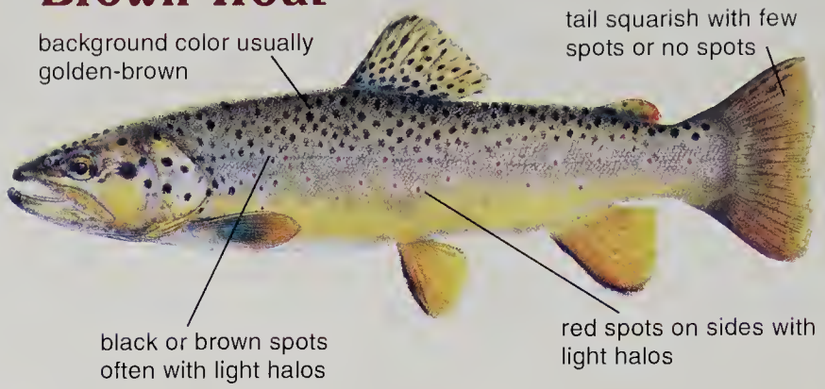


Average Size: 14" - 20"
MT Record: 42 lbs., 44"
Flathead Lake, 1979

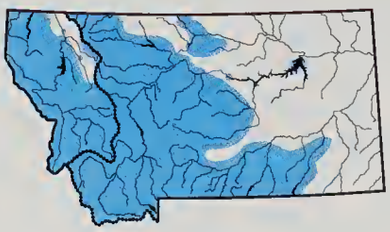
## Brown Trout



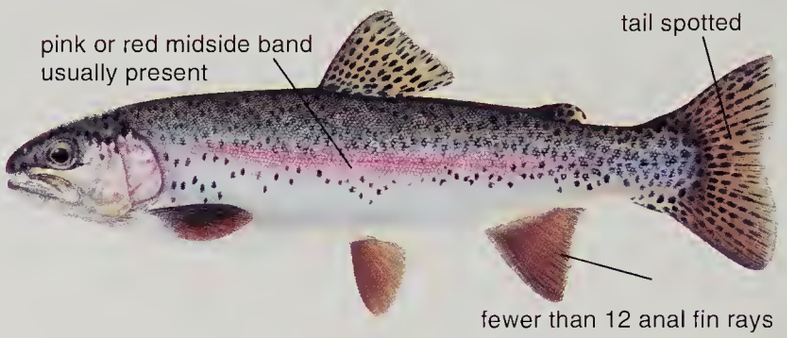
Average Size: 12" - 16"
MT Record: 29 lbs.
Wade Lake, 1966


background color usually golden-brown
tail squarish with few spots or no spots
black or brown spots often with light halos
red spots on sides with light halos

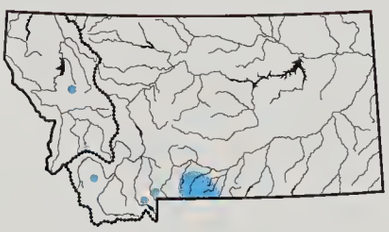
## Rainbow Trout



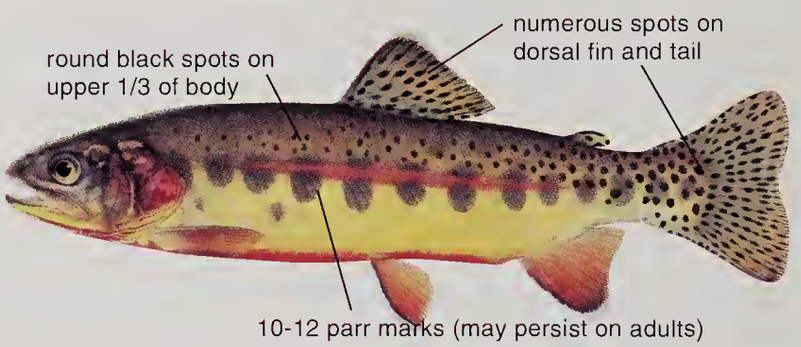
Average Size: 8" - 16"
MT Record: 33.1 lbs., 38.62"
Kootenai River, 1997



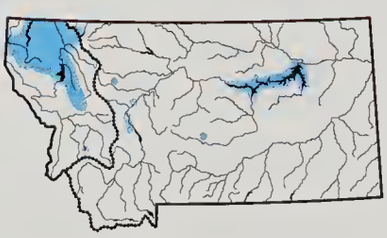

## Golden Trout



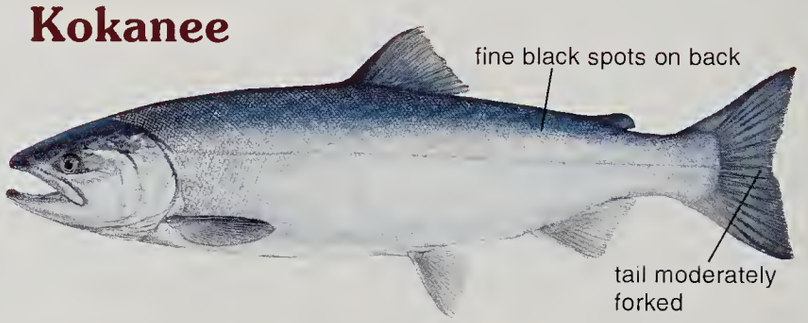
Average Size: 6" - 12"
MT Record: 5.43 lbs., 23.5"
Cave Lake, 2000




## Kokanee



Average Size: 8" - 16"
MT Record: 7.52 lbs., 25.125"
Hauser Lake, 2001




## Kokanee—Spawning Male

Fish illustrations by Joseph Tomelleri. Fish are not shown to scale. Species of Special Concern—see definitions.

# HOW TO USE THESE REGULATIONS FOLLOW THESE THREE EASY STEPS

1. Read the statewide regulations first, they apply to fishing anywhere in Montana and provide basic regulation information – page 8
2. Determine the fishing district you'll be in, read the district's standard regulations and seasons in case they are different from the statewide standard regulations.

**WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT – page 15**
**CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT –page 41**
**EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT – page 71**

3. Check if the specific water you'll be fishing is listed in the district's special regulations (these are listed alphabetically). If listed there, the special regulations apply. If not listed there, the district standard regulations apply.

**EXAMPLE:**

To fish for sauger on the Missouri River downstream from Fort Benton:

- **Statewide Regulations:** Pages 8 to 14 explain the daily and possession limits, including handling and transporting your catch and provide basic information concerning fishing hours, bait and fishing methods. To transport sauger and walleye fillets, a square-inch shoulder patch of skin with scales must remain attached to each fillet.
- **Eastern District Standard Regulations:** Pages 71 to 76 tell you the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District, when you can fish, standard limits, methods of angling allowed and special permits that may be needed.
- **Eastern District Special Regulations:** Page 79 limits you to one sauger per day with a possession limit of two. All sauger and walleye must remain whole until you are off the water and done fishing for the day. All other daily and possession limits are as listed for the eastern district.
- **Boating Regulations:** Pages 85 to 87 provide a quick reference for general boating restrictions.

**OR: Check the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Web Page (www.fwp@state.mt.us). You select the river, stream, lake, reservoir or pond you wish to fish and the regulations specific to this water will be provided.**

***New regulations for 2002-2003 are in italics.***

# EMERGENCY FISHING CLOSURES

FWP may announce short-term emergency fishing closures in response to biological or environmental conditions. Sport fishing regulations in this booklet for the designated waters will be suspended, and fishing may be curtailed or disallowed for the duration of the emergency period announced by the department. In recent years, many Montana streams have experienced drought conditions. Low stream flows can force trout to congregate in pools, making them more susceptible to anglers. Warm water temperatures can cause considerable stress to trout and can be fatal to fish handled by anglers. Check the FWP Web Page, your local newspaper or call your local FWP office to find out about emergency closures.

## REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY FWP COMMISSION

By order of the FWP Commission (FWPC), the seasons, limits and regulations listed here shall govern the 2002 fishing season. These regulations were adopted by the FWPC on November 8, 2001, and are valid March 1, 2002 through February 28, 2003.

These regulations are also proposed to remain in effect for the 2003 license year (March 1, 2003-February 29, 2004). The FWPC will formally adopt the fishing regulations in the winter of 2002 with possible changes. Any changes in these regulations will appear in an addendum sheet available at all FWP offices and from FWP license agents. Anglers must obtain an addendum sheet to make sure they are complying fully with fishing laws.

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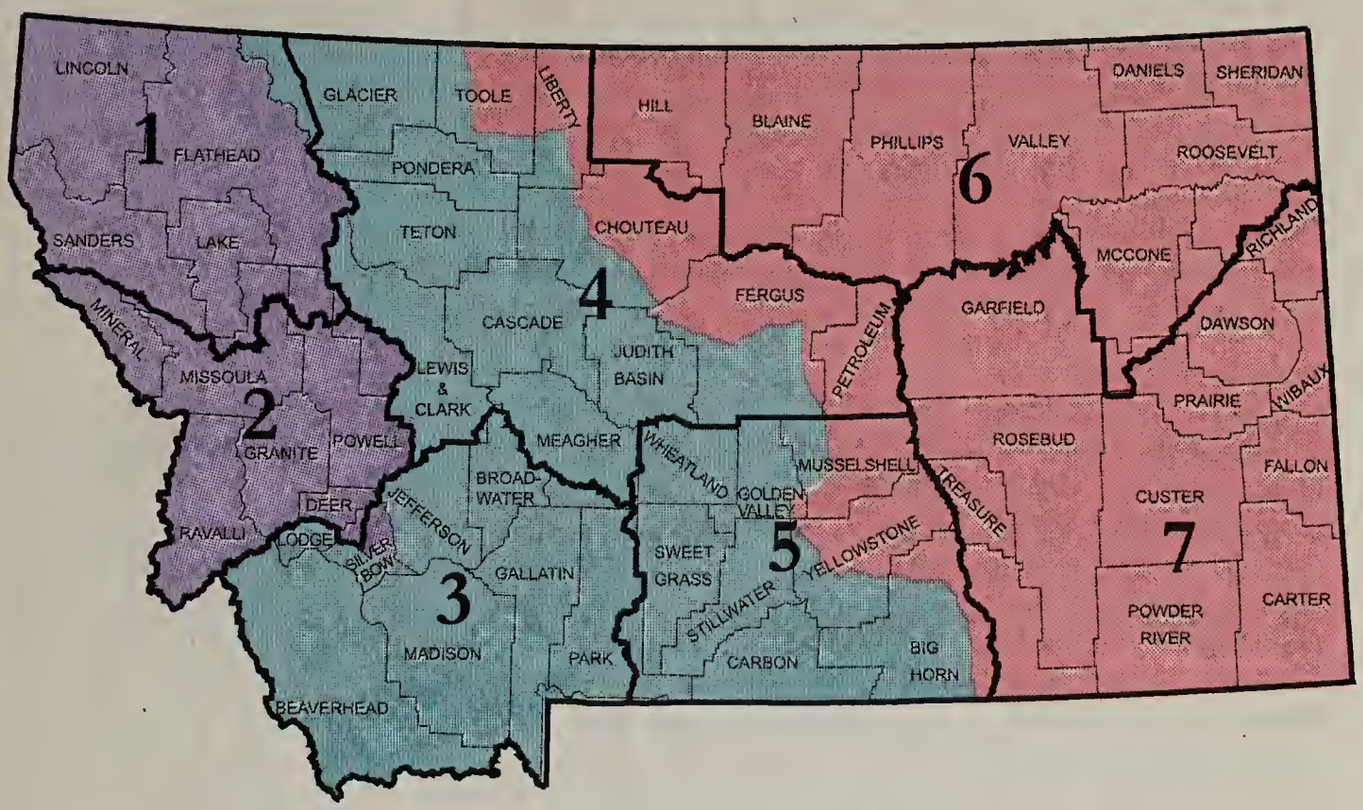
# FWP ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS WITH FISHING DISTRICTS IN COLOR




**Western District=Violet, Central District=Teal, Eastern District=Red**

**STATE HEADQUARTERS**
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
406-444-2535

TELEPHONE DEVICE
FOR THE DEAF
406-444-1200

**REGION 1**
490 North Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-752-5501

**REGION 2**
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
406-542-5500

**REGION 3**
1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-994-4042

**HELENA Area Res Office (HARO)**
930 Custer Ave W
Helena, MT 59620
406-444-4720

**BUTTE Area Res Office (BARO)**
1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701
406-494-1953

**REGION 4**
4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-454-5840

**LEWISTOWN Area Res Office (LARO)**
2358 Airport Rd
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-4658

**REGION 5**
2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
406-247-2940

**REGION 6**
Route 1 - 4210
Glasgow, MT 59230
406-228-3700

**HAVRE Area Res Office (HvARO)**
2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
406-265-6177

**REGION 7**
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
406-232-0900

# LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

To fish in Montana, most anglers need two licenses: a Conservation License and a Fishing License.

A Conservation License is needed before you can buy any fishing or hunting license that FWP issues. Conservation license applicants are required to provide their social security number in addition to the information usually requested. A valid driver's license or a valid photo ID is required to purchase a license.

A fishing license allows a person to fish for and possess any fish authorized by the state's fishing regulations. It is nontransferable and nonrefundable. The license enables one to fish from March 1 through the end of February of the following year.

**Resident Licenses**

To qualify for a resident license, a person must meet the criteria set out in MCA 87-2-102 and 202. To be a legal resident eligible to purchase a resident fishing license, you must have physically been living in Montana for at least 180 consecutive days (six months) immediately before purchasing any resident license; you must file Montana state income tax returns as a resident, if you are required to file; you must have registered your vehicles in Montana; if you are registered to vote, you must be registered in Montana; and you may not possess or apply for any resident hunting, fishing or trapping privileges in another state or country. At the time of purchase, a person must present a valid Montana driver's license or a valid Montana driver's examiner's identification card. If unsure of your residency status, contact a regional FWP office.

## What License(s) Do I Need to Fish in Montana?

| Age | Resident | Nonresident |
|---|---|---|
| 1-11 | No license required. Must observe all limits and regulations. | No license required **IF** accompanied by an adult that holds a valid Montana fishing license. The combined daily and possession limit for the two anglers cannot exceed the legal limit for one licensed angler. To catch his or her own legal limit, the youth must purchase a fishing license. See nonresident 15-62+ years of age. |
| 12-14 | Conservation License only ($4.00) | |
| 15-61 | Conservation License ($4.00) + Fishing License (***$5.00 for 2 consecutive days*** or $13.00 – season, $6.50 – season for anglers 15-17)<br><br>Resident Sportsman's and Youth (12-17) Combination Sports Licenses also include a season fishing license. | Conservation License ($7.00) + Montana Fishing License ($15.00 for 2 consecutive days or $60.00 – season)<br><br>Nonresident Deer A Combo or Nonresident Big Game Combo licenses also include a season fishing license. |
| 62+ | Conservation License only ($4.00) | |

## Special Licenses

**Warm Water Game Fish Stamp**

The 1999 Montana Legislature passed a bill to require the purchase of a Warm Water Game Fish Stamp to help fund construction of a warm water fish hatchery planned near Fort Peck. The stamp is required for anglers to possess any warm water fish caught in designated waters. An angler who is required to be licensed to fish in Montana and who posseses any warm water game fish (including, but not limited to, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, burbot, walleye, sauger, black crappie, white crappie, channel catfish, yellow perch, northern pike, and tiger muskellunge) on waters listed in each district must purchase a warm water game fish stamp. Resident youth under 15 years of age, residents 62 years of age and older, and resident disabled anglers are exempt.

Resident and Nonresident - $5.00

See the Central and Eastern District Standard Regulations for the waters that require this stamp.

**Paddlefish**

A resident or nonresident of any age must purchase a tag to fish for paddlefish. Paddlefish anglers must also possess a valid Conservation License and Fishing License if required. Limit of two tags per person.

Resident - $2.50 each  Nonresident - $7.50 each

**Montana Resident with Disability**

Resident Person with a Disability Conservation License* - $4.00

*Must be permanently and substantially disabled. Applications and licenses available only at FWP offices. NOT available at FWP license agents. Not available to nonresidents. Allows the holder to fish.

**Veterans Administration Patients**

Permits are available for patients of VA Hospitals and residents of State institutions, except the State penitentiary. These permits are available on site at the VA hospital or State institution.

**Care Facility**

The manager or director of an eligible facility licensed in Montana may apply for permission to take supervised residents fishing during activities approved by the facility. Licensed facilities include: long-term care, personal care, home for persons with developmental disabilities and home for persons with severe disabilities.

**Educaton Exemptions**

Free fishing license exemptions are available to qualified educational events and fishing clinics. For information on these free educational exemptions, call 406-444-9736.

### State Park Entrance Fees

Most Montana State Parks require an entrance fee, and anglers fishing in park waters must pay this fee. For the frequent user a state park passport vehicle sticker, good for the entire fishing season, is available for $24 per vehicle from any FWP office, from some license agents and through the FWP Web Page (www.fwp@state.mt.us). The occasional user pays a daily entrance charge of $4.00 per vehicle at the park's entrance. Many Primitive Parks do not require Montana residents to pay an entrance fee, although non-residents must pay the user fee.

### Recreational Use of State School Trust Lands

A State Lands Recreational Use License, which is available from FWP license agents, is required to conduct most recreational activities (including hunting and fishing) on state school trust lands. Pamphlets giving information regarding the rules, regulations and restrictions governing these recreational activities on state school trust lands are available from FWP offices, licenses agents and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Lands Division, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620.

# HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR ANGLERS

## MONTANA STREAM ACCESS LAW

Under the Montana Stream Access Law, the public may use rivers and streams for recreational purposes up to the ordinary high-water marks. Although the law gives recreationists the right to use rivers and streams for water-related recreation, it does not allow them to enter posted lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams. Complete rules are available at any FWP office.

## MONTANA TRESPASS LAW

Montana's trespass law states that a member of the public has the privilege to enter private land only:

- with the explicit permission of the landowner or his agent, or
- when the landowner has failed to post a no-trespassing notice.

The recreationist must obtain permission from the landowner before entering posted lands. Montana hunters must always obtain permission to access private land. Recreationists are urged to obtain complete rules about this law from any FWP office.

## BOAT AND MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some waters. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described at the back of this booklet. A complete, updated, copy of the Montana Boating Laws may be obtained by contacting any FWP office or any FWP license agent.

All passengers under the age of 12 must wear a PFD at all times if the boat is less than 26 feet long. A wearable, U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD must be available for each occupant of any boat.

## ILLEGAL INTRODUCTIONS

It is illegal to import and release any wildlife in Montana without FWP authorization. Introduced fish, aquatic invertebrates (insects, crayfish, etc.) and noxious weeds pose a threat to our valuable fish and aquatic resources because they:

- compete with native or other desired species for food and space;
- interbreed with established species or disrupt spawning; and/or
- carry and spread new diseases and parasites.

Help prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species. For more information contact your local FWP office.

- **Don't** move live fish, aquatic invertebrates or plants from one body of water to another.
- **Don't** release any live aquarium fish or bait fish.

**Save Montana from Aquatic Nuisance Species**

Before launching.....Before leaving:

**REMOVE** all aquatic plants and animals;
**DRAIN** lake or river water;
**DISPOSE** of unwanted live bait on land;
**WASH** your boat, tackle, downriggers, lines and trailer; and
**DRY** everything.

### Angler Alert – New Zealand Mudsnails

New Zealand mudsnails have found their way into Montana. To prevent spreading this nuisance species elsewhere in the state, wash your waders, shoes, boots and especially your boats carefully before heading to the water.

- Clean all vegetation and mud off your boat, trailer (check axle, rollers and hitch), motor and equipment before leaving the water.
- Drain and clean your live well, bait containers and engine cooling system after being out on the water.

### Prevent the Spread of Noxious Weeds

*Knapweed*

Noxious weeds are everyone's problem. Weed infestations cause increased runoff to our rivers and streams, and threaten critical habitat for trout and other fish. Please do your part to help prevent the spread of weeds.

- Learn to identify noxious weeds.
- Avoid parking, walking or driving through weed infestations.
- Wash vehicles before and after trips afield.
- Feed weed-free forage to livestock before and during backcountry trips.
- Keep clothing, equipment and pets weed-free.

### Help Prevent the Spread of Whirling Disease

Whirling disease is a bacterial parasite now found in many waters in Montana that causes deformities and increased mortality in trout.

- Remove all mud and aquatic plants from your vehicle, boat, anchor, trailer and axles, waders, boots, and fishing gear before departing a fishing access site or boat dock;
- Drain all water from your boat and equipment–including coolers, buckets, and live wells– before departing a fishing access site or boat dock;
- Dry your boat and equipment between river trips.
- **Do Not** transport fish from one body of water to another;
- **Do Not** use any parts of trout, salmon, or whitefish for bait;
- **Do Not** collect or use sculpins for bait.

## FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services has issued advisories for the consumption of fish from certain Montana waters. Fish from some Montana waters contain levels of chemicals that may be harmful to young children, nursing mothers, and childbearing women or persons frequently consuming fish. Information, advice and additional details about fish consumption is available from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Food and Consumer Safety Section, Helena, Montana, 59620; telephone (406) 444-3986 or on the internet (www.dphhs.state.mt.us).

**In General:**

- Keep smaller fish for eating. They taste better and have had less time to accumulate contaminants than older, bigger fish.
- Eat smaller meals when you eat big fish and eat them less often.
- Eat fish that are less likely to be contaminated. Contaminants such as mercury and PCBs build up in large predatory fish such as walleye and lake trout. Their prey, such as yellow perch and rainbow trout, have fewer contaminants.
- Clean and cook your fish properly. Trim fish to remove fatty portions. Cook fish in a way that drains juices away from the meat.

## TAGGED FISH

If you catch a tagged fish, please report the following information to any FWP office:

1. the tag's number and color;
2. the date the fish was caught;
3. the species of the fish;
4. the fish's length and weight (close as possible);
5. location of the catch (the body of water and distance from nearest landmark);
6. if the fish was kept or released; and
7. the name and address of the angler.

## DISPOSAL OF DEAD FISH and FISH ENTRAILS

When you are in a boat on the water and fishing, it is acceptable to dispose of fish entrails in the lake, reservoir or river. When you are near or on the shore or bank, it is recommended that you bag all fish remains and dispose of the bag in an appropriate garbage receptacle. Help keep the shoreline clean for others. It is unlawful to discard game fish, however dead nongame fish may be treated like fish entrails for disposal purposes (puncture the air bladder first so the fish will sink).

# STATEWIDE FISHING REGULATIONS

## IMPORTANT STATEWIDE REGULATION CHANGES

**Know the Law and Avoid Violations**

Following are some of the important changes that were made from the 2000-2001 fishing regulations. Please read the 2002-2003 regulations thoroughly to avoid unintentional violations.

- Sauger are defined as any sauger/walleye with multiple small, distinct black spots on the spiny (first) dorsal fin ray membranes.
- The Kids Pond in the Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area near Warm Springs has been added to the list of waters designated for kids fishing only.
- Crayfish may not be harvested commercially for any purpose.
- In areas where it is necessary to distinguish sauger from walleye, all sauger and walleye must remain whole while you are on the water and fishing. When you are off the water and done fishing for the day and where no size limits apply, you may fillet the fish, but a one-square inch shoulder patch of skin must remain attached to each fillet for transport.

**It is Unlawful and a Misdemeanor**

- To violate any regulations listed in this booklet.
- To introduce any fish or viable fish eggs into any waters without permission.
- To refuse to show one's fishing license upon demand.
- To refuse to show one's fish upon demand.
- To loan or transfer your fishing license or tags to any person.
- To sell game fish except as prescribed by FWP Commission regulations.
- To leave or dump any dead animal, fish, garbage or litter in or on any state or private property where public recreation is permitted.
- To stun or kill fish by using any carbide, lime, giant powder, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narcotic poison. To possess these substances within 100 feet of any stream where fish are found is unlawful.
- To hire or retain an unlicensed outfitter or guide.
- To waste any part of game fish suitable for food (see Waste of Fish or Game definition at the end of this booklet).

## GAME FISH - Defined

Most species of the family Salmonidae (trout, salmon, grayling, char and whitefish); all species of the genus Stizostedion (sauger and walleye); all species of the genus Esox (northern pike and tiger muskellunge); all species of the genus Micropterus (bass); all species of the genus Polyodon (paddlefish); all species of the family Acipenseridae (sturgeon); the genus Lota (burbot or ling); and the species Ictalurus punctatus (channel catfish).

- Bull trout are defined as any trout with white leading margins on the lower fins and no markings on the dorsal fin. (Note: it is unlawful to intentionally fish for bull trout in any waters except Swan Lake.)
- ***Sauger are defined as any Stizostedion (sauger/walleye) with multiple small, distinct black spots on the spiny (first) dorsal fin ray membranes.***

## FISHING HOURS

Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons unless otherwise specified in district special regulations.

## SEASONS

All dates given for seasons are inclusive dates. Where dates specify an open season, fishing is closed for the rest of the year. An open season is for all species unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Rivers & Streams</th><th>Lakes & Reservoirs</th></tr>
<tr><td>Western District</td><td rowspan="2">Open third Saturday in May through November 30, unless otherwise specified in Special Regulations.</td><td rowspan="2">Open all year</td></tr>
<tr><td>Central District</td></tr>
<tr><td>Eastern District</td><td>Open all year.</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

## DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

**Possession limit** means the number of fish that you may possess at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved. It is illegal to preserve fish (salted, smoked, dried, canned, or otherwise preserved) before taking them to your permanent residence (the physical abode or structure you maintain as your principal, legal residence). Mobile recreational vehicles, travel trailers, tents or ***storage/freezer lockers*** do not qualify as permanent residences.

**Daily limit** means the number of fish you may legally take during a calendar day. It is unlawful to exceed the standard daily limit unless the regulations for the water body where you are fishing specifies a different limit. "Legally taken" means fish caught and not immediately released alive. Where catch and release is allowed, fish released alive are considered not taken. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the daily limit of the person originally hooking the fish, even if the fish is donated to another person. If you receive fish from another angler, those fish also become part of your daily limit. You may possess the daily limit aliowed only for the body of water on which you are fishing.

### Handling and Transporting Legally Taken Fish

While a person is fishing, or while on the water, or on the ice:

- All fish in possession must be visibly identifiable to species.
- For a species of fish where size limits apply all fish in possession must be whole with head, skin, fins and tail attached. Gills and entrails may be removed.

Fish may be dressed and filleted for immediate consumption.

Fish may be dressed and filleted for transport to your permanent residence, unless size limits apply, under the following conditions:

- All fish can be counted and identified. Two fillets will be counted as one fish. If the catch is frozen prior to transport, each fish or fillet must be packaged so it can be counted.
- Salmonids (trout, salmon, grayling, char and whitefish): the entire skin must be attached to the fillet for identification.
- Non-salmonids: a minimum of one inch by one inch square shoulder patch of skin with scales must remain attached to each fillet for identification.
    - ***In areas where it is necessary to distinguish between sauger and walleye, fish must be kept whole for identification while on the water. Gills and entrails may be removed. Sauger and walleye may be filleted unless size limits apply, only when you are off the water and done fishing for the day.***

## TRANSPORTING LIVE FISH

It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken **except** for: 1) transportation of fish for permitted commercial purposes; 2) for use as live bait subject to any further restrictions imposed by the FWP Commission; and 3) within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District.

## CHECK STATIONS

Anglers and hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on the way to and from fishing and hunting areas, even if they have no fish or game to be checked.

## FISHING METHODS

### Hook and Line Limits

- A hook is a single, double, or treble point attached to a single shank. A lure with multiple hooks is still deemed a single hook.
- Only a single line with up to 2 hooks, with or without a pole, may be used for fishing unless otherwise specified in district regulations (see ice fishing regulations). The pole or line must be attended and in the angler's immediate control.
- Two lines with up to 2 hooks per line may be used on lakes and reservoirs in the Central and Eastern Fishing districts.
- Where multiple lines are permitted, the number of allowable lines includes the combined total of attended lines, unattended lines (setlines), spears, or other units of fishing gear.
- These provisions also apply to commercial whitefish fishing as provided under district regulations.

### Unattended Lines (Setlines)

- Unattended lines (setlines) may be used on waters specified by district regulations. Unless otherwise specified, an unattended line (setline) must be checked by the owner at least once every 24 hours.
- The owner's name and address must be attached to each unattended line (setline).
- Unattended lines (setlines) shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices.

### Bow and Arrow

A fishing license is required to take fish with a bow and arrow as specified under individual fishing district regulations. See Western, Central, and Eastern District regulations.

### Snagging

Snagging is a form of angling in which hooks are cast, trolled, or lowered into the water and moved to snag them in the bodies of fish. Snagging fish is unlawful, except for paddlefish, chinook salmon, kokanee salmon and nongame fish as provided under district regulations. Where snagging is allowed, any number of hooks may be used. If you accidentally snag a game fish not legal for snagging, you must release it immediately.

### Spearing

Spears or gigs may be used for taking fish as specified under individual fishing district regulations. See Western, Central, and Eastern District regulations. Rubber or spring-propelled spears may only be used when swimming or submerged in the water and may only be used for designated species in designated waters.

### Nets and Traps

- Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.
- In the Central and Eastern Fishing districts, in waters where use of live fish is allowed for bait, nongame species (except sculpin, carp, goldfish, all species in the sunfish family, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch and rainbow smelt) may be taken in the following manner:
  - with seines no larger than 12 feet by 4 feet; or
  - with minnow traps (the dimensions shall not exceed 24 x 12 x12 inches); or
  - with cast nets (maximum of 6-foot radius) and dip nets (no larger than 3' X 3').
- Hoop nets may be used only in the Eastern Fishing District (see Eastern District).

## Bait

- No portion of sculpins or salmonids (trout, salmon, grayling, char and whitefish) may be used as bait except eggs. All nongame fish or parts thereof may be used as bait if the heads and entrails are removed, or if they have been preserved or frozen, except in water limited to artificial lures only.
- Live fish may not be used for bait, except as provided under **Bait** as listed in the Central and Eastern district regulations. Possession of live bait is prohibited in waters closed to using live fish for bait. Only nongame species may be taken for bait and only in waters where live fish may be used as bait.
- Carp, goldfish, all species in the sunfish family, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch, and rainbow smelt may not be used for live bait at any location in the state.
- The taking and/or use of sculpins (genus Cottus), or salmonids (trout, salmon, grayling, char, and whitefish) as fishing bait is prohibited in all waters in the state because they may transmit whirling disease.
- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by a permit issued by FWP. Permits may be obtained by contacting 406-452-6181 or by mailing a request to 4801 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405.
- Leeches from approved sources, worms, aquatic insects and maggots may be used as bait except in waters limited to artificial lures only.

## Artificial Lures

- Artificial lures include any lure (including flies) that imitates natural bait. Artificial lures do not include: fish eggs, any natural or artificial food, any products that are derivatives of natural foods, nor any chemically treated or processed natural bait.

## Ice Fishing

### Number of Rods/Lines

- Two rods and/or lines may be used to fish through ice on all lakes, reservoirs, or ponds open to fishing in the Western and Central districts. Six rods and/or lines may be used to fish through ice on lakes, reservoirs, and ponds open to fishing in the Eastern District. See a particular fishing district's special regulations for exceptions to this restriction.

### Size of Hole

- The maximum size hole that may be used for ice fishing is 144 square inches (12 inches by 12 inches), in waters not open to spearing.
- There is no size limit for a hole used for fishing with a spear.

### Shelters

- **Use**: It is illegal to use any ice-fishing shelter not conforming to these rules.
- **Shelter definition**: Any hut or enclosure constructed of any material, except ice or snow, for the purpose of ice fishing.
- **Shelter identification**: Identification must be painted on (or permanently affixed to) all unattended shelters in legible, 2-inch letters plainly visible at a distance of 100 feet. For fabric shelters or tents, identification may be placed on a sign attached to the outside of the shelter. Identification must include the owner's name, address, and/or phone number.
  - All unattended or attended shelters on the following bodies of waters must be marked as above.

    Bearpaw Lake
    Beaver Creek Reservoir
    Brown's Lake
    Clark Canyon Reservoir
    Deadman's Basin
    Georgetown Lake
    Hauser Lake
    Lake Francis
    Lake Helena
- **Inspection**: Each closed shelter shall have a door that an officer may readily open from the outside for inspection when it is occupied.

- **Waste and rubbish disposal**: Owners and occupants of shelters are required to keep their shelters (and the area immediately around them) free from rubbish and trash. Anglers must remove waste materials before they leave for the day.

- **Shelter removal**:

  Daily removal of shelters is required on the following waters:

  Browns Lake (near Ovando)
  Deadmans Basin
  Echo Lake (near Anaconda)
  Fitzpatrick Lake
  Georgetown Lake
  Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir

  Shelters may not be placed on the ice prior to sunrise and must be removed prior to sunset each day on the following waters:

  Hauser Reservoir
  Lake Helena

- **Removal after the season**: The owner of an ice-fishing shelter shall remove it from the ice before it becomes irretrievable at the end of the season; within seven days after the close of ice-fishing season; or within five days from receipt of notification from FWP to remove the shelter.

**Catch-and-Release Fishing**

- Waters designated catch-and-release for one or more species of fish require that those fish be immediately released alive.

  Use of proper handling techniques will improve the chance of survival for any fish released. A fish that is released may still die from deep hooking injury, internal organ damage from being squeezed, bacterial infections resulting from loss of slime in the handling process, effects of physical stress from being played too long, and heat shock, or lack of oxygen from being held in warm or poorly oxygenated water.

**RELEASING FISH**

**To ensure a released fish has the best chance for survival:**

- Play the fish as rapidly as possible. Do not play it to total exhaustion.
- Keep the fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing the hook.
- Remove the hook gently. Do not squeeze the fish or put your fingers in its gills. There are release devices available from most sporting/fishing stores to assist you, and use of barbless hooks makes releasing fish easier.
- If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the line. Do not pull the hook out. Most fish survive with hooks left in them. The use of circle hooks reduces deep hooking.
- Release the fish only after it has gained its equilibrium. If necessary, gently hold the fish upright in the current facing upstream and move it slowly back and forth.
- Release the fish in quiet water close to the area where it was hooked.

**Lake/Reservoir fishing from boats:**

- Fish caught from deep water may be unable to vent their air bladder and may "bloat". Puncturing the air bladder or "fizzing" is not recommended because it may cause infections. A simple release tool will facilitate releasing the fish in deep water and recompressing it quickly. All you need is a 50-foot cord, a weight and a hook. Dull the hook, flatten the barb and attach the hook inline just above the weight with knots at the hook eye and bend. The hook should be pointing down toward the eye. Place the hook over the lower jaw of the fish and let the weight drop, pulling the fish down rapidly. A tug on the cord will release the fish.
- Boat live well pumps should be run continuously to maintain adequate oxygen levels at all times. A fish's metabolic rate (and stress level) doubles with every 10 degrees Fahrenheit increase in water temperature. Any fish intended for release should be released quickly, as soon as it gains its equilibrium.

## IRRIGATION CANALS AND DITCHES

Man-made irrigation canals and ditches are open year round unless stated otherwise in district regulations. The same daily and possession limits apply to them as for rivers and streams.

## BEAVER PONDS

Beaver ponds on streams are governed by the same regulations that govern the streams.

## RESERVOIRS

Reservoirs are artificially-impounded water behind a man-made dam extending upstream to the mouth of its inlet stream(s). Under normal operations, reservoir pool elevation, surface acreage, and the mouths of the inlet stream(s) are expected to vary throughout the year. The inlet stream(s) are often managed under seasons, limits and special regulations that differ from the reservoir regulations. Stream regulations apply to water upstream from the mouth on the reservoir. Streams are defined by a sloped streambed that results in a defined current flow between two discernable stream-banks.

## CHILDREN'S FISHING WATERS

Waters posted as Children's Fishing Waters are open to fishing during the entire year to persons ***14*** years of age and younger. Children's Fishing Waters are ***Kid's Pond in the Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area near Warm Springs***, Elks Club Pond near Lewistown, the Fairground Pond in Helena, Gheny Pond near Twin Bridges, Indian Road Pond near Townsend and Vigilante Pond near Virginia City.

## INDIAN RESERVATIONS

- Certain waters on Indian Reservations may have special rules and permits. Specific information should be obtained from reservation headquarters.
- The State of Montana and Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for fishing regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation by calling the FWP regional office in Kalispell at 406-752-5501, or the Tribes at 406-675-2700.

## NATIONAL PARKS

Certain waters within National Parks have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the park headquarters. For Glacier National Park, call 406-888-7800 and for Yellowstone National Park, call 307-344-7381.

## FEDERAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Certain waters on Federal Wildlife Refuges may have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the federal refuge involved.

## CLOSED WATERS

Waters operated as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds by FWP and the US Fish and Wildlife Service shall be closed to fishing at all times. Waters in which FWP operates fish traps and other structures are closed to fishing as posted. Certain water-supply lakes, streams, and hazardous areas are also closed as posted.

## AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES

### Crayfish

- A valid fishing license is required to harvest crayfish for personal use. Crayfish may be taken in traps no larger than 24x12x12 inches.
- ***Crayfish may not be commercially harvested for use as bait. Commercial harvest of crayfish for any purpose is prohibited.***

### Mussels

In accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM), Section 12.2.501, it is unlawful to take or possess freshwater mussels or their shells for sale or commercial distribution.

### Collecting Aquatic Invertebrates Commercially

Persons wishing to collect aquatic invertebrates (such as leeches and aquatic insects) for sale or commercial distribution should contact their regional FWP office for information.

## PRIVATE FISH PONDS

### License Requirements

A person who owns or lawfully controls a private fish pond may obtain a license from FWP to stock the pond with fish. Only lawfully purchased fish may be planted. Contact your local FWP office for more information and an application. No fishing license is required to fish on licensed, privately stocked fish ponds. Applicable fishing license requirements apply to private ponds that are stocked by FWP.

## COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSES

### Commercial Whitefish Fishing

A permit is required to sell whitefish. Contact a FWP regional office for a permit and a list of waters open to the commercial harvest of whitefish.

### Commercial Bait Fish Seining and Sale of Bait Fish

Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) may be harvested commercially in accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM), Section 12.7.201.-12.7.206. Any person taking nongame fish for sale or commercial distribution must have a commercial license for seining bait fish. Live bait fish or bait may not be imported into or exported from Montana for commercial or other purposes unless authorized by the department. Contact regional FWP offices for a permit and list of waters open to commercial seining.

Commercial bait regulations are not valid on Indian reservation waters. For information, contact local tribal officials.

## OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

An off-highway vehicle must have a current Off-Highway decal displayed in a conspicuous place to be used for for off-road recreation on public lands in Montana (including frozen lakes and resevoirs). Decals are available from county treasurers. Owners of unregistered and unlicensed OHVs from other states must purchase a temporary use permit through FWP regional offices in person or by mail through the Helena FWP office. Nonresidents who operate licensed machines for more than 30 days in Montana must also obtain the temporary use permit.

## FISHING CONTESTS

A permit from FWP is required for most fishing contests. Contact your local FWP for information and an application.

# FOR MORE "NEED TO KNOW INFORMATION"...

Review the rest of this booklet to learn about:


- Identifying game fish, see inside of front and back covers.
- Boating restrictions and regulations, page 85.
- Your license dollars at work, page 88.
- Basic fishing line knots, page 93.
- How to get additional information, page 94.
- Definitions, page 94.

# WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Areas excluded from fishing districts.
Additional regulations may apply.
Other federal or tribal permits may be required.

**The Western Fishing District includes all waters in Montana west of the Continental Divide.**

For additional information about fishing in this district, please call the following regional headquarters Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00:

Kalispell ..... 406-752-5501
Missoula ..... 406-542-5500
TDD (Telephone Device for the Deaf) ..... 406-444-1200

**IMPORTANT WESTERN DISTRICT REGULATION CHANGES**

**Know the Law and Avoid Violations**

- Stream anglers may only keep 3 cutthroat trout which must be less than 10 inches as part of their daily limit.
- Following are some of the waters with important changes that were made from the 2000-2001 fishing regulations. Please read the 2002-2003 regulations thoroughly to avoid unintentional violations. ***New regulations are in italics.***

Anaconda Settling Pond System
Bitterroot River
Blackfoot River
Blanchard Lake
Cedar Creek
Clark Fork River
Echo Lake (Bigfork)
Fish Creek (Mineral County)
Fisher River
Flathead Lake
Flathead River and Sloughs
Flint Creek
Frenchtown Pond
Horseshoe Lake (near Ferndale)
Kootenai River
Lake Alva
Lake Inez
Libby Creek
Little Blackfoot River
Middle Fork Flathead River
North Fork Flathead River
Petty Creek
Placid Creek (tributary to Placid Lake)
Placid Lake
Rattlesnake Creek and tributaries
Rock Creek (near Clinton)
Salmon Lake and tributaries
Seeley Lake
South Fork Flathead River Drainage
St. Regis River
Swan River

## BOAT AND MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some of the waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boating regulations at the back of this book. A complete, updated, copy of the Montana Boating Laws can be obtained from any FWP office or any FWP license agent.

**NOTE:** All passengers under the age of 12 must wear a PFD at all times if the boat is less than 26 feet LONG. A wearable, U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD must be available for each occupant of any boat.

## STANDARD FISHING SEASONS

**Rivers and Streams**

Open third Saturday in May through November 30. See Western Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

**Lakes and Reservoirs**

Open entire year. See Western Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

## STANDARD FISHING REGULATIONS

**A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing.**

### Flathead Indian Reservation

A tribal permit is required to fish on waters within the exterior boundary of the Reservation. Call tribal headquarters at 406-675-2700 for information.

### Transporting Live Fish

- It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken **except** for transportation of fish for valid commercial purposes.

### Bow and Arrow

All waters are closed to bow and arrow taking of fish, except as noted under special regulations. Crossbows are illegal.

### Snagging

All waters are closed to snagging of game and nongame fish, except as noted under special regulations.

### Spearing

All waters are closed to spearing of game and nongame fish, except as noted under special regulations.

### Bait (Live)

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by FWP.
- It is illegal to use or capture live bait fish in any waters (trout, salmon, grayling, char and whitefish) of the Western Fishing District.
- It is illegal to use sculpins or any portion of salmonids except eggs as bait.

## STANDARD DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- includes all tables below. Refer to Statewide Regulations for additional regulations concerning limits.

- Each angler may take all of the limits listed in each chart, unless noted in the Special Regulations. For species not listed, there are no limits on the number of fish that may be taken or possessed.
- Anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are currently fishing.
- Irrigation Canals and Ditches – the same daily and possession limits apply as for rivers and streams.

**NOTE:** Native fish of special concern are highlighted in red. Make sure you can identify these species. Many are protected and may not be harvested or may have a special limit to minimize harvest. These fish are an important part of Montana's natural resources; they need your help.

## Western District Standard Daily and Possession Limits

### Rivers & Streams

| Species | Daily and Possession limits |
|---|---|
| **Combined Trout Limit** (includes the following in any combination):<br>**Brown trout**<br>**Rainbow trout**<br>**Golden trout**<br>Grayling<br>Cutthroat trout | 5 daily and in possession ***no more than 3 may be cutthroat trout***. Only one fish (brown, golden, rainbow trout or grayling) over 14 inches ***and no cutthroat trout over 10 inches.*** |
| Bull trout | All waters of the Western District, except Swan Lake, are closed to the taking and/or intentional fishing for bull trout. |

### Rivers & Streams and Lakes & Reservoirs

| Species | Daily and Possession limits |
|---|---|
| **Bass** | 5 |
| **Brook trout** | 20 |
| **Burbot (ling)** | 5 |
| **Lake trout** | 10 |
| **Northern pike** | 15 |
| **Salmon** | 20 daily and 40 in possession |
| **Whitefish** | 100 |
| White sturgeon | 0<br>it is unlawful to take white sturgeon |

**Wilderness Limits:**
All waters (rivers, streams and lakes) in the South Fork Flathead River Drainage from Hungry Horse Dam to the wilderness boundary and all waters within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wilderness areas, unless otherwise specified under the Special Regulations.

| Species | Daily and Possession limits |
|---|---|
| **Combined Trout Limit:**<br>**Rainbow trout**<br>Cutthroat trout<br>Grayling | 3 daily and in possession<br>rivers and streams: no fish over 12 inches |

### Lakes & Reservoirs

| Species | Daily and Possession limits |
|---|---|
| **Combined Trout Limit** (includes the following in any combination):<br>**Brown trout**<br>**Rainbow trout**<br>**Golden trout**<br>Cutthroat trout<br>Grayling | 5 daily and 10 in possession |

## WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check the following list of waters for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of Special Regulations, all of the standard seasons, daily/possession limits, and statewide regulations apply. **For waters listed under the Special Regulations, the possession limit is the same as the daily limit, unless a different possession limit is specified.**

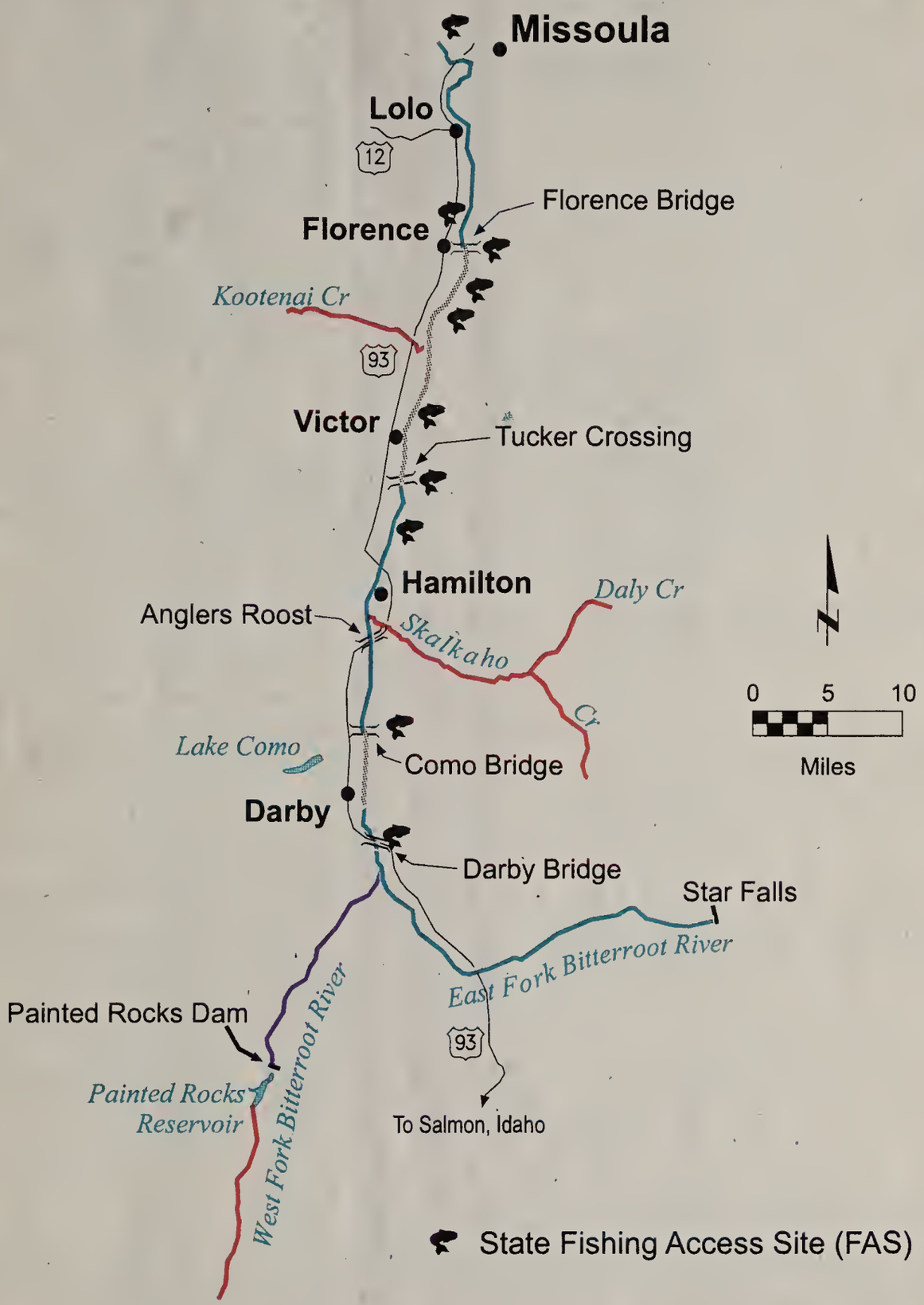
| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABBOT LAKE | | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 - 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 fish daily, only 1 over 12 inches. |
| ALICE CREEK | (tributary to the Blackfoot River) | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| ALVORD LAKE | | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 - 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 fish daily. |
| ANACONDA SETTLING POND SYSTEM | | | | | | | | See Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area. |
| ASHLEY CREEK | (near Kalispell) | | X | | | | | Open entire year downstream from Smith Lake. |
| ASHLEY LAKE | | | | | X | | | Salmon: 35 daily and 70 in possession. |
| | inlet tributaries | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| BASIN CREEK | (Silverbow County) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year from lower Butte water supply reservoir dam to its source, including all reservoirs and tributaries. |
| BASIN CREEK and tributaries | (Yaak drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 10 inches. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open July 1 through November 30. |
| BEAR CREEK | (tributary to Middle Fork Flathead River) | X | | | | | | Angling is closed within 100-yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through August 30. |
| BEAVER CREEK | (tributary to Blackfoot River) | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| BEAVER LAKE | (near Whitefish) | | | | | | X | Snagging: Open for salmon from September 15 through November 30. |
| ***BELMONT CREEK*** | ***(tributary to Blackfoot River)*** | | | | | X | | ***Artificial lures only within 100-yard radius of mouth.*** |
| BIG CREEK and tributaries | (tributary to North Fork Flathead River) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| | | X | | | | | | Angling is closed within 100-yard radius of the stream mouth or as posted June 1 through August 30. |
| BITTERROOT LAKE | | | | | | | | See Little Bitterroot Lake. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.**
**Combined Trout Limit includes brown, rainbow, golden and cutthroat trout and grayling.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BITTERROOT RIVER See Map | Bitterroot River to the mouth, West Fork Bitterroot River downstream from Painted Rocks Dam, and East Fork Bitterroot River downstream from Star Falls | | X | | | | | Extended season for ***northern pike*** and whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only. |
| | West Fork Bitterroot River above Painted Rocks Reservoir | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | Painted Rocks Dam to mouth of West Fork Bitterroot River | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout, only 1 over 14 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | one mile downstream of Darby Bridge to Star Falls on the East Fork | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout, only 1 over 14 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | one mile downstream from Darby to Como Bridge | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for all trout. |
| | Como Bridge to Tucker Crossing | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout, only 1 over 14 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | Tucker Crossing to Florence Bridge | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for all trout. |
| | Florence Bridge to mouth of Bitterroot River | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout, 1 over 14 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| BITTERROOT VALLEY | between U.S. 93 and the East Side Highway between Hamilton and Buckhouse Bridge (ditches, canals, and sloughs) | | X | | | | | Extended season for northern pike and whitefish and catch-and-release for trout December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify bull trout and cutthroat trout.**

# Bitterroot River



| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BLACKFOOT RIVER See Map | mainstem and tributaries (see Clearwater River Drainage exception) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, no rainbow trout over 12 inches, any size brown trout. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | mainstem only | | | | | X | | ***Artificial lures only within 100-yard radius of the mouths of Gold and Belmont creeks.*** |
| | | | X | | | | | Extended season for northern pike and whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May ***with artificial lures and/or maggots only***. Tributaries are closed to fishing. |
| | ***Landers Fork mouth to Stimson Lumber Dam (Milltown Reservoir)*** | | | X | | | | ****Catch-and-release for brook trout.*** |
| | Stimson Lumber Dam downstream to Milltown Reservoir (Clark Fork River) | | X | | | | | Extended season for northern pike from December 1 to third Saturday in May, with artificial lures only. |
| | | | | | X | | | Northern pike: no limit |
| ***BLANCHARD LAKE*** | (near Whitefish) | | | X | | | | ***Catch-and-release for bass*** |
| | | | | | X | | | ***Northern pike: 5 daily, 4 less than 28 inches and 1 greater than 36 inches.*** |
| BLUE SKY CREEK | | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| BOOTJACK LAKE | (near Whitefish) | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 1 daily, 22-inch minimum. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open April 1 through November 30. |
| CALLAHAN CREEK | (Kootenai River Drainage) | X | | | | | | Closed to fishing within 100 yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through August 30. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 10 inches. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open July 1 through November 30. |
| | tributaries, including North Callahan and South Callahan creeks | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 10 inches. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open July 1 through November 30. |
| CARPENTER LAKE | (Eureka) | | | | | | | See Tetrault Lake. |

**** This regulation is a result of bull trout being misidentified and harvested as brook trout. Brook trout are very rare in this section of river whereas bull trout are common.***

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown, rainbow, golden and cutthroat trout and grayling.**

# Blackfoot River

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***CEDAR CREEK*** | | | | | | X | | ***Artificial lures only within a 100-yard radius of the mouth.*** |
| CHURCH SLOUGH | | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 - 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 fish daily, only one over 12 inches. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open year round. |
| CLARENCE CREEK | (near Eureka) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| CLARK FORK RIVER See Map | upstream from Perkins Lane Bridge (near Warm Springs) | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release only. |
| | | | | | | | X | Closed to fishing from boats. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | Perkins Lane Bridge (near Warm Springs) to mouth of Flathead River | | | | | X | | ***Artificial lures only within a 100-yard radius of the mouths of Rattlesnake Creek, Petty Creek, Fish Creek, Cedar Creek and St. Regis River.*** |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 15 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | | | | | X | | | Northern pike: no limit. |
| | | | X | | | | | Extended season for northern pike and whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May ***with artificial lures and/or maggots only***. |
| | ***Noxon Rapids Dam structure and adjacent water as posted*** | X | | | | | | ***Closed entire year.*** |
| | mouth of Flathead River to mouth of Thompson River | | X | | | | | Northern pike: open entire year with bait or lures. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 15 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | | | X | | | | | ***Whitefish: open entire year with maggots or lures.*** |
| | mouth of Thompson River to Idaho Border | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | | | | | X | | | Lake limits apply to entire reach. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify bull trout and cutthroat trout.**

Clark Fork River
IDAHO
Noxon Rapids Dam
Thompson River
Thompson Falls
Clark
Plains
St. Regis River
St. Regis
Flathead River
Superior
Cedar Cr
Fork
Fish Cr
Petty Cr
Missoula
Rattlesnake Cr
Rock Cr
River
Deer Lodge
Warm Springs Cr
Perkins Lane Bridge
Warm Springs Bridge
Anaconda
Willow & Mill Crs
N
Miles
0 10 20

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CLEARWATER RIVER DRAINAGE | Clearwater River upstream from Lake Inez fish barrier and tributaries | | | | X | | | Combined trout limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | Clearwater River from Lake Inez fish barrier to Salmon Lake outlet | | X | | | | | Open entire year downstream from the Lake Inez Fish Barrier. |
| | | | | | | | X | Snagging: open for salmon from Lake Inez Fish Barrier to Seeley Lake from September 15 through November 30. Closed to snagging from Seeley Lake to Salmon Lake. |
| | Clearwater River from Salmon Lake outlet to mouth | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | Lakes | | | | X | | | Northern Pike: no limit, open to spearing. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for bass. |
| | | | | | | | X | Salmon: see individual waters for regulations. |
| COAL CREEK and tributaries | (tributary to North Fork Flathead River) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| COPPER CREEK | (tributary to Blackfoot River) see Blackfoot River regulations | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| COTTONWOOD CREEK | (tributary to Blackfoot River) | | | | | | | See Blackfoot River. |
| CRYSTAL LAKE | (Thompson Chain of Lakes) | | | | | | X | Snagging: Open for salmon September 15 through November 30. |
| DONALDSON CREEK DRAINAGE | (tributary to Lake Mary Ronan) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| EAST FORK YAAK RIVER and tributaries | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 10 inches. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open July1 through November 30. |
| ECHO LAKE | (near Bigfork) | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 - 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 fish daily, only 1 over 12 inches. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only, ***daily limit of 2***. |
| ECHO LAKE | (near Anaconda) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, includes brook trout. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through March 31. |
| ELK CREEK | (tributary to Swan River) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.**
**Combined Trout Limit includes brown, rainbow, golden and cutthroat trout and grayling.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EMILY SPRINGS | (tributary to Georgetown Lake) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| FENNON SLOUGH | | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 - 1 daily, 22 inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 daily and in possession, only 1 over 12 inches. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| FISH CREEK | mainstem downstream of confluence of South and West forks (Mineral County) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout in any combination, none over 15 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | | | | | | X | | ***Artificial lures only within 100-yard radius of the mouth.*** |
| FISHER RIVER | | | X | | | | | Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with ***artificial lures and/or maggots only***. |
| FISHTRAP CREEK and tributaries | excluding Fish Trap Lake (Thompson River Drainage) | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 10 inches. |
| FLATHEAD LAKE | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | | | | | X | | | Lake trout: 16 daily, 15 under 30 inches and 1 over 36 inches. |
| | | | | | | X | | Up to 2 attended lines with no more than 2 hooks per line. |
| FLATHEAD RIVER | confluence of the North and Middle forks to Flathead Lake | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: ***5 daily,*** catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | | | | | X | | | Lake trout: 15 daily. |
| | | | X | | | | | Extended season for whitefish and lake trout, and catch-and-release for other game fish open December 1 through the third Saturday in May with ***artificial lures and/or maggots only***. |
| | Flathead Indian Reservation boundary to mouth | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | | | | | X | | | Northern pike: 5 daily, must be over 24 inches. |
| FLATHEAD RIVER SLOUGHS | Church and Fennon | | | | | | | See individual listings. |
| | ***Brenneman, Egan, McWennegar, Rose Creek and Half Moon*** | | X | | | | | ***Open entire year. Standard lake and reservoir limits apply.*** |
| FLINT CREEK | | | X | | | | | Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with ***artificial lures and/or maggots only***. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify bull trout and cutthroat trout.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FOY LAKE | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily. |
| | | | | | | | X | Snagging: open for salmon from September 15 through November 30. |
| FRED BURR LAKE | (Philipsburg water supply, Granite County) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| FREELAND CREEK DRAINAGE | (tributary to Lake Mary Ronan) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| ***FRENCHTOWN POND*** | | | | | X | | | ***Bass: 3 daily, none over 12 inches.*** |
| GEORGETOWN LAKE | | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through March 31 except for the South and East shorelines. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, includes brook trout and lake trout. |
| | | | | | X | | | Salmon: no daily or possession limit. |
| | South and East shoreline | X | | | | | | Closed to fishing from the shore or within 100 yards of the shore April 1 through June 30. The closed area extends from a point 200 yards west of Denton's Point Marina (along the shore, including all of Stuart Mill Bay) to a point 200 yards north from the mouth of North Fork Flint Creek. |
| | tributaries to Georgetown Lake (North Fork Flint, Stuart Mill and Hardtla creeks) | | X | | | | | Open July 1 through November 30. |
| GOAT CREEK | (tributary to Swan River) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| ***GOLD CREEK*** | ***(tributary to Blackfoot River)*** | | | | | X | | ***Artificial lures only within 100-yard radius of mouth.*** |
| GRANITE CREEK and tributaries | (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| GRAVE CREEK | (near Eureka) | | | | | X | | Snagging: open for salmon from Highway 93 bridge downstream to mouth September 15 through November 30. |
| HARDTLA CREEK | (tributary to Georgetown Lake) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, includes brook trout and lake trout. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open July 1 through November 30. |
| HERRIG CREEK | (tributary to Little Bitterroot Lake) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| HORSESHOE LAKE | (near Ferndale) | | | X | | | | ***Catch-and-release for bass.*** |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.**
**Combined Trout Limit includes brown, rainbow, golden and cutthroat trout and grayling.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HORSESHOE LAKE | (Thompson Chain of Lakes) | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for nongame fish. |
| | | | X | | | | | Western one-third of lake closed to fishing February 1 through May 15 as posted. |
| HUNGRY HORSE RESERVOIR and tributaries | | | | | X | | | Wilderness Limits apply. See Western District Standard Wilderness Limits. |
| JOB CORPS PONDS See Warm Springs WMA Map | (Deer Lodge County) | | X | | | | | Open August 15 through September 30. |
| | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release only. |
| KEELER CREEK | | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through July 15. |
| KOOTENAI RIVER | ***Libby Dam and adjacent waters*** | X | | | | | | ***Closed to fishing as posted.*** |
| | Libby Dam to Highway 37 Bridge (near Fisher River) | | X | | | | | ***Open June 1 through March 31. Closed April 1 to May 31.*** |
| | | X | | | | | | Closed within 100-yard radius of Callahan, O'Brien and Quartz creek stream mouths June 1 through August 30. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 4 daily, 3 under 13 inches ***and 1 over 24 inches***. All trout between 13 ***and 24 inches*** must be released. |
| | Highway 37 Bridge (near Fisher River) to Idaho Border | X | | | | | | Closed within 100-yard radius of the Callahan, O'Brien and Quartz creek stream mouths June 1 through August 30. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 4 daily, 3 under 13 inches and 1 over 18 inches. All trout between 13 and 18 inches must be released. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | ***Kootenai Falls to 0.8 miles downstream of Swinging Bridge*** | | | | | | X | Snagging: open for salmon from September 15 through November 30. |
| LAKE ALVA | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch and release for bass. |
| | | | | | X | | | Salmon: ***5 daily and 10 in possession.*** |
| LAKE BLAINE | | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 - 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 fish daily. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify bull trout and cutthroat trout.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LAKE CREEK | (near Troy) | | | | | | X | Snagging: open for salmon from September 15 through November 30. |
| LAKE INEZ | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch and release for bass. |
| | | | | | X | | | Salmon: 5 daily ***and 10 in possession.*** |
| LAKE KOOCANUSA | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 22 inches. |
| | | | X | | | | | January 15 through February 28: closed to burbot (ling) fishing. |
| LAKE MARY RONAN | | | | | X | | | Bass: third Saturday in May through June 30 - 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through February 28 - 5 fish daily. |
| | | | | | X | | | Salmon: 10 daily and 20 in possession. |
| | | X | | | | | | Closed to fishing from midnight to 3 a.m. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through February 28. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open March 1 to third Saturday in May: yellow perch only. |
| LANDERS FORK | | | | | | | | See Blackfoot River. |
| LIBBY CREEK | | | X | | | | | Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open from December 1 to third Saturday in May ***with artificial lures and/or maggots only***. |
| LION CREEK | (tributary to Swan River) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| LION LAKE | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily. |
| LITTLE BITTERROOT LAKE | aka Bitterroot Lake | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 22 inches. |
| LITTLE BLACKFOOT RIVER | | | X | | | | | Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout December 1 to third Saturday in May ***with artificial lures and/or maggots only***. |
| LITTLE LOON LAKE | (Thompson Chain of Lakes area) | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 – 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 fish daily. |
| LODGEPOLE CREEK and tributaries | (tributary to Middle Fork Flathead River) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| LONG CREEK and tributaries | (tributary to Middle Fork Flathead River) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| LOON LAKE | (Thompson Chain of Lakes) | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 - 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 fish daily. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.**
**Combined Trout Limit includes brown, rainbow, golden and cutthroat trout and grayling.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LOST LAKE | (Eureka) | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 1 daily, over 22 inches. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open April 1 through November 30. |
| LOWER STILLWATER LAKE | | | | | X | | | Lake trout: 15 daily. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only. |
| LOWER THOMPSON LAKE | | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 - 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 fish daily. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 22 inches. |
| | | | | | X | | | Salmon: 10 daily and 20 in possession. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only. |
| MCGREGOR LAKE | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 22 inches. (Does not include lake trout, see standard regulations.) |
| MEDICINE LAKE | (near Philipsburg) | | X | | | | | Open July 1 through April 31. |
| | tributaries | | X | | | | | Open July 1 through November 30. |
| METCALF LAKE | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 1 daily, 22-inch minimum. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open April 1 through November 30. |
| MIDDLE FORK FLATHEAD RIVER DRAINAGE | all streams within the wilderness | | | | | | X | Wilderness Limits apply. See Western District Wilderness Limits. |
| | non-wilderness portion | | | | | | X | ***Montana/Glacier National Park boundary is the ordinary high water mark on the park side of the river.*** |
| | | X | | | | | | ***Angling is closed within 100-yard radius of the Bear Creek stream mouth June 1 through August 30.*** |
| | | | | | X | | | Lake trout: 15 daily. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | | | X | | | | | Extended whitefish season and catch-and release for trout open Dec. 1 to third Saturday in May ***with artificial lures and/or maggots only***. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify bull trout and cutthroat trout.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MIDDLE THOMPSON LAKE | | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 - 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 fish daily. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 22 inches. |
| | | | | | X | | | Salmon: 10 daily and 20 in possession. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only. |
| MILL CREEK | (near Warm Springs) | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release only. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | | | | | | | X | Closed to fishing from boats. |
| MILLTOWN RESERVOIR | Milltown Dam to Stimson Lumber weir (Blackfoot arm) and Milltown Dam to Milwaukee Bridge abutments (Clark Fork arm) | | X | | | | | Northern pike: no limit, extended season December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures only. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined trout limit: 3 daily, none over 15 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| MONTURE CREEK | | | | | | | | See Blackfoot River. |
| MORRISON CREEK and tributaries | (tributary to Middle Fork Flathead River) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| NEVADA CREEK | (tributary to Blackfoot River) | | | | | | | See Blackfoot River. |
| NORTH FORK BLACKFOOT RIVER | | | | X | | | | See Blackfoot River. |
| NORTH FORK FLATHEAD RIVER | | | | | | | X | ***Montana/Glacier National Park boundary is the middle of the river.*** |
| | | | X | | | | | ***June 1 through August 30 angling is closed within 100-yard radius of the Big and Coal creek stream mouths.*** |
| | | | | | X | | | Lake trout: 15 daily. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | | | X | | | | | Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May ***with artificial lures and/or maggots only.*** |
| NORTH FORK FLINT CREEK | (tributary to Georgetown Lake) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, includes brook trout. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open July 1 through November 30. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.**
**Combined Trout Limit includes brown, rainbow, golden and cutthroat trout and grayling.**

| WATERBODY | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NOXON RAPIDS RESERVOIR | | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 - 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 fish daily. |
| O'BRIEN CREEK | | | X | | | | | June 1 through August 30: closed to angling within 100-yard radius of the stream mouth. |
| PETERSON LAKE | | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 – 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 fish daily, only 1 over 12 inches. |
| PETTY CREEK | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: ***3 daily***, none over 15 inches. |
| | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only within 100-yard radius of the mouth. |
| PLACID CREEK | (tributary to Placid Lake) | | | | X | | | Salmon: ***5 daily and 10 in possession***. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike. |
| | | | | | | | X | Snagging: ***open for salmon October 15 through December 31, 20 salmon daily and 40 in possession***. |
| PLACID LAKE | | | | | X | | | Salmon: ***5 daily and 10 in possession.*** |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for bass. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike. |
| | | | | | | | X | Snagging: ***open for salmon October 15 through December 31, 20 salmon daily and 40 in possession.*** |
| QUARTZ CREEK | (Kootenai River Drainage) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through July 15. |
| | | X | | | | | | June 1 through August 30 closed to angling within 100-yard radius of the stream mouth. |
| RATTLESNAKE CREEK and tributaries | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | | X | | | ***Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 15 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.*** |
| | downstream from the mouth of Beeskove Creek | X | | | | | | Closed to fishing from the mouth of Beeskove Creek ***to 100 yards downstream of*** Mountain Water Company Dam. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify bull trout and cutthroat trout.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ROCK CREEK | (near Clinton) from its mouth to the confluence of the East and West forks | | | | | | X | Closed to fishing from boats July 1 through November 30. |
| | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may use bait. |
| | | | X | | | | | Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May ***with artificial lures and/or maggots only***. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 brown trout, none over 12 inches. Catch-and-release for rainbow trout and cutthroat trout. |
| ROGERS LAKE | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only one may be a grayling. |
| | spawning inlet | X | | | | | | Closed to angling entire year. |
| SALMON LAKE and tributaries | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for bass. |
| | | | | | X | | | Salmon: 5 daily ***and 10 in possession***. |
| SEELEY LAKE | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for bass. |
| | | | | | X | | | Salmon: ***5 daily and 10 in possession.*** |
| | | | | | | | X | Snagging: ***open for salmon October 15 through December 31, 20 salmon daily and 40 in possession.*** |
| SKALKAHO CREEK | including Daly Creek (tributary to Bitterroot River) | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| SOUTH FORK CALLAHAN CREEK | and tributaries (Yaak River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 10 inches. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open July 1 through November 30. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown, rainbow, golden and cutthroat trout and grayling.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SOUTH FORK FLATHEAD RIVER DRAINAGE and tributaries | all waters upstream from Hungry Horse Dam, including Hungry Horse Reservoir | | | | | | | Wilderness Limits apply. See Western District Standard Regulations. |
| | Meadow Creek Bridge to Spotted Bear foot bridge | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release only. |
| | Hungry Horse Dam downstream to Devil's Elbow | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| | Devil's Elbow downstream to mouth | | | | X | | | Lake trout: 15 daily. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | | | X | | | | | Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May ***with artificial lures and/or maggots only.*** |
| SQUEEZER CREEK | (tributary to Swan River) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| ST REGIS RIVER | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout in any combination, none over 15 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | | | | | | X | | ***Artificial lures only within 100-yard radius of the mouth.*** |
| STILLWATER RIVER and tributaries | | | | | X | | | Lake trout: 15 daily. |
| | | | | | X | | | Lake whitefish: 50 daily. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open entire year from mouth of Sunday Creek to lower Stillwater Lake. |
| STUART MILL CREEK | (tributary to Georgetown Lake) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, includes brook trout and lake trout. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open July 1 through November 30. |
| SWAN LAKE | | | | | X | | | Bull trout: 1 daily and in possession. Upon catching a bull trout, an angler must either kill it at once and count it as the limit or release it immediately. It is unlawful to possess a live bull trout for any reason. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify bull trout and cutthroat trout.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SWAN RIVER | | | X | | | | | Closed to angling within a 100-yard radius of Woodward Creek June 1 through August 30. |
| | Piper Creek Bridge downstream to Swan Lake | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout and rainbow trout. |
| | Swan Lake | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | ***downstream to the Highway 35 Bridge*** | | | X | | | | ***Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.*** |
| TETRAULT LAKE | aka Carpenter Lake | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily. |
| THOMPSON RIVER | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 less than 10 inches or 2 less than 10 inches and 1 over 18 inches. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only, except anglers ***14*** years of age and younger may use bait. |
| | upstream from mouth of Little Thompson River | | X | | | | | Closed to fishing December 1 to third Saturday in May. |
| | confluence with Clark Fork River to mouth of Little Thompson River | | X | | | | | Extended season for whitefish and catch and release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only. |
| TOBACCO RIVER | | | | | | | X | Snagging: Open for salmon September 15 through November 30. |
| TRAIL CREEK and tributaries | (Yakinikak) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year downstream from mouth of Thoma Creek. |
| TRIANGLE POND | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily. |
| UPPER STILLWATER LAKE | | | | | X | | | Lake trout: 15 daily. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only. |
| UPPER THOMPSON LAKE | | | | | X | | | Bass: May 15 through June 30 - 1 fish daily, 22-inch minimum. July 1 through May 14 - 5 fish daily. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only one over 22 inches. |
| | | | | | X | | | Salmon: 10 daily and 20 in possession. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only. |
| UPSATA LAKE | | | | | X | | | Northern pike: no limit. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for bass. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.**
**Combined Trout Limit includes brown, rainbow, golden and cutthroat trout and grayling.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WARM SPRINGS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA See Map | (also see Job Corps Ponds) | | X | | | | | All ponds and canals open August 15 through September 30 including Job Corps Ponds and Ducks Unlimited Ponds. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release only. See Kid's Pond and Gravel Pit Pond for exceptions. |
| | | | | | | X | | ***Artificial lures only.*** See Kid's Pond and Gravel Pit Pond for exceptions. |
| | | | | | | | X | Motorized floating craft prohibited. |
| | ***Kids Pond at WSWMA headquarters*** | | | | | | X | ***Open to fishing by anglers 14 years of age and younger only.*** |
| | | | | | | X | | ***Bait may be used.*** |
| | | | | | X | | | ***Combined Trout Limit: 2 daily.*** |
| | ***Gravel Pit Pond adjacent to Hwy 48*** | | | | X | | | ***Combined Trout Limit: 2 daily.*** |
| | | | | | | X | | ***Bait may be used.*** |
| | Hog Hole | | X | | | | | Open May 25 through September 30. No trespass on islands. |
| | Pond 3 | | X | | | | | Open May 25 through September 30 to fishing from non-motorized floating craft and from north and west dikes except where posted closed. |
| | Mill-Willow Bypass, Warms Springs Creek and Clark Fork River | | | | | | X | Closed to fishing from boats. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| WEST FORK BITTERROOT RIVER | Painted Rocks Dam to mouth of West Fork Bitterroot River | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow or brown trout, any size. Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| WEST FORK QUARTZ CREEK | (Kootenai River Drainage) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through July 15. |
| WEST FORK THOMPSON RIVER and tributaries | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily under 10 inches. |
| WHALE CREEK and tributaries | (tributary to North Fork Flathead) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year downstream from Whale Creek Falls. |
| WHITEFISH LAKE | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 2 cutthroat or 2 rainbow trout (or 1 each) only 1 over 14 inches. |
| | | | | | X | | | Lake trout: 15 daily under 30 inches and 1 over 36 inches. |
| | | | | | X | | | Lake whitefish: 50 daily. |
| WHITEFISH RIVER | | | X | | | | | Open entire year from Whitefish Lake to State Highway 40 Bridge. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify bull trout and cutthroat trout.**

# Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WIGWAM RIVER | (Kootenai River Drainage) | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for trout. |
| WILLOW CREEK | (near Warm Springs) - From Stewart Street Bridge to the Wildlife Management Area | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release only. |
| WOODWARD CREEK | | X | | | | | | Closed to angling within a 100-yard radius of the stream mouth June 1 through August 30. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit includes brown, rainbow, golden and cutthroat trout and grayling.**

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- If asked, you must allow a FWP game warden or officer to inspect your catch, license and fishing gear.
- Check the daily and possession limits in the area you are fishing.
- It is illegal to preserve fish in the field.
- Check the regulations for field dressing and transporting your fish. Page 9.
- Opening and closing dates are inclusive.
- Regulations are subject to change. It is your responsibility to know the regulations for the area you are fishing.

## CATCH TIPS

If you plan to keep your legal catch, kill it immediately so that it keeps its freshness and flavor. Clean the fish as soon as possible by removing the entrails and gills, and keep it in a cool place out of the sun. An insulated cooler filled with ice is an inexpensive, convenient way to keep the fish cool and moist for the trip home.

## PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW

Most Fish and Game violations are misdemeanors that are punishable by a fine not to exceed $1,000 and imprisonment in the county detention center for not more than six months. The court may also order the forfeiture of any current hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and the privilege to hunt, fish and trap or use state lands for recreational purposes for a period set by the court.

Taking an over limit of fish will result in a fine **plus** restitution to the state for each fish over the limit. Restitution for bull trout may be up to $500 per fish and for river grayling, white sturgeon, and paddlefish restitution is $300 per fish.

A person who intentionally imports, introduces, or transplants fish in violation of state law is guilty of an offense punishable by a fine of not more $5,000 and imprisonment for up to one year. The person is also liable for the amount necessary to eliminate or mitigate the effects of the violation. Upon conviction or forfeiture of bond or bail the person shall forfeit any current hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and the privilege to hunt, fish and trap in this state for not less than 24 months. If the effects of the violation cannot be eliminated or mitigated, a person may be required to forfeit the privilege to hunt, fish or trap in Montana for the rest of their life.

# CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

**The Central Fishing District includes all waters in Montana east of the Continental Divide, (including the Belly and St Mary's River drainages) and west of the following described boundary:** Interstate 15 from the Montana-Canada border south to its junction with Hwy 2 at Shelby, then east on Hwy 2 to Chester, then south on Hwy 223 to State Route 80 at Fort Benton, then southeasterly along State Route 80 to its junction with State Route 81, then easterly on State Route 81 to its junction with U.S. Hwy 191, then northeasterly along U.S. Hwy 191 to its junction with State Route 19, then south on State Route 19 to its junction with U.S. Hwy 87 at Grassrange, then south on U.S. Hwy 87 to its junction with U.S. Hwy 12 at Roundup, then west on U.S. Hwy 12 to its junction with State Route 3 at Lavina, then south on State Route 3 to its junction with Interstate 90 at Billings, then easterly and southerly on Interstate 90 to the first crossing of the Little Bighorn River, then southerly along the west bank of the Little Bighorn River to the Montana-Wyoming border.

**Note:** Roadways that are used as boundaries between the Central and Eastern Fishing Districts are interpreted to be in the Central Fishing District.

For additional information regarding the boundaries in this fishing district, please call the following regional headquarters Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00:

Billings ..... 406-247-2940
Bozeman ..... 406-994-4042
Butte Area Office ..... 406-494-1953
Great Falls ..... 406-454-5840
Helena Area Office ..... 406-444-4720
Lewistown Area Office ..... 406-538-4658
TDD ..... 406-444-1200
(Telephone device for the deaf)

**IMPORTANT CENTRAL DISTRICT REGULATION CHANGES**
**Know the Law and Avoid Violations**
Following are some of the waters with important changes that were made from the 2000-2001 fishing regulations. Please read the 2002-2003 regulations thoroughly to avoid unintentional violations. ***New regulations are in italics.***

- Beaverhead River
- Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir
- Canyon Ferry Reservoir
- Clarks Fork Yellowstone River and tributaries
- Darlington Ditch
- Hebgen Reservoir tributaries
- Jefferson River
- Missouri River
- Rat Lake
- Red Rock River
- Shields River
- Smith River
- Warm Springs Creek
- Yellowstone River

## BOAT AND MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boating regulations at the back of this book. A complete, updated, copy of Montana Boating Laws can be obtained from any FWP office or FWP license agent.

All passengers under the age of 12 must wear a PFD at all times if the boat is less than 26 feet long. A wearable, U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD must be available for each occupant of any boat.

## STANDARD FISHING SEASONS

**Rivers and Streams**

Open third Saturday in May through November 30. See Central Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

**Lakes and Reservoirs**

Open entire year. See Central Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

## STANDARD FISHING REGULATIONS

**A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing.**

**Transporting Live Fish**

It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken **except** for: 1) transportation of fish for authorized commercial purposes; 2) use as live bait subject to any further restrictions imposed by the FWP Commission; 3) within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District. It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish on roadways that form the boundary between the Eastern and Central fishing districts.

**Warm Water Game Fish Stamp**

The 1999 Montana Legislature passed a bill to require the purchase of a warm water game fish stamp. The warm water game fish stamp is required to possess warm water fish on the following waters in the Central Fishing District:

- Big Casino Creek Reservoir, Fergus County
- Bighorn Lake, Carbon & Big Horn Counties
- Bynum Reservoir, Teton County
- Cooney Reservoir, Carbon County
- Dailey Lake, Park County
- Deadmans Basin Reservoir, Wheatland County
- Iliad Reservoir, Chouteau County
- Kolar Reservoir #1, Judith Basin County

Kolar Reservoir #2, Judith Basin County
Kolar Reservoir #8, Judith Basin County
Lake Frances, Pondera County
Lake Josephine, Yellowstone County
Lower Carter Pond, Fergus County
Morony Dam Lake, Cascade County
Schoonover Reservoir #1, Chouteau County
Silvan Pond, Chouteau County
Tunis Reservoir, Chouteau County
Wadsworth Reservoir, Cascade County
Warm Springs Creek, Fergus County

**Hook and Line Limits**

- On lakes and reservoirs, two attended lines with up to 2 hooks per line may be used.
- On streams and rivers a single line with up to 2 hooks may be used.
- Anglers may use unattended lines (setlines) only in those waters noted in the Special Regulations for this district. Unattended lines (setlines) must be clearly identified with the owner's complete name and address and shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices.

**Ice Fishing**

All lakes and reservoirs in the Central Fishing District open to fishing are open for fishing through the ice with up to 2 attended lines and 2 hooks per line. More than 2 lines are permitted on some waters as specified under the district's Special Regulations.

**Bow and Arrow**

All waters open to angling are open to taking nongame fish with bow and arrow. Crossbows are illegal.

**Snagging**

All waters open to angling are open to snagging of nongame fish. (See Statewide Regulations.)

**Spearing**

In all waters open to fishing, nongame fish may be taken with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.

**Bait**

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by FWP.
- Live nongame fish (except sculpins, carp, goldfish, all species in the sunfish family, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be taken or used for bait only in the following waters:
  Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir.
  Bighorn River—Afterbay Dam to the cable 600 feet downstream and downstream from the Bighorn FAS.
  Clarks Fork Yellowstone River — downstream from the bridge at Bridger.
  Kammerzell Reservoir, Liberty County
  Marias River and tributaries downstream from I-15.
  Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam.
  Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn, including all streams and drainage canals.
  Streams and ditches in the Yellowstone River Drainage downstream from the mouth of the Clarks Fork (except the section of the Bighorn River from the cable 600 feet downstream of the Afterbay Dam to Bighorn FAS).
  Teton River and tributaries downstream from I-15.
  Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell), Toole and Liberty counties

## STANDARD DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- includes all tables below. Refer to Statewide Regulations for additional regulations concerning limits.

- Each angler may take all of the limits listed in each chart unless noted otherwise in the Special Regulations. For species not listed, there are no limits on the number of fish that may be taken or possessed.
- Anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are currently fishing.
- Irrigation Canals and Ditches – the same daily and possession limits apply as for rivers and streams.

NOTE: Native fish of special concern are highlighted in red. Make sure you can identify these species. Many are protected and may not be harvested or may have a special limit to minimize harvest. These fish are an important part of Montana's natural resources; they need your help.



## Central District Standard Daily and Posssession Limits

### Rivers & Streams

| Species | Daily and Possession limits |
|---|---|
| **Combined Trout Limit**<br>(includes the following in any combination):<br>**Brown trout**<br>**Rainbow trout**<br>**Golden trout** | 5 daily and in possession<br>only 1 fish may be over 18 inches |
| Grayling | 0<br>all grayling in rivers and streams must be released |
| Cutthroat trout | 0<br>all cutthroat trout in rivers and streams must be released unless otherwise noted in special regulations (see below for additional information) |

**Missouri River Drainage**

- Cutthroat trout must be released in all rivers and streams except where otherwise noted in the special regulations.

**Yellowstone River Drainage**

Mainstem Yellowstone River

Yellowstone National Park Boundary to the Highway 78 Bridge at Columbus

- Cutthroat trout must be released.

***Highway 78 Bridge at Columbus to the I-90 Bridge at Billings***

- ***Cutthroat trout may be harvested as part of the Combined Trout Limit.***

Tributaries to Yellowstone River

Yellowstone National Park boundary downstream to Springdale (approximately 18 miles east of Livingston)

- Cutthroat trout must be released in all rivers and streams except where otherwise noted.

Springdale downstream to the I-90 Bridge at Billings

- Cutthroat trout may be harvested in all rivers and streams as part of the Combined Trout Limit.

## Rivers & Streams and Lakes & Reservoirs

| Species | Daily and Possession limits |
|---|---|
| Bass | 5 |
| Brook trout | 20 |
| Burbot (ling) | 10 |
| Catfish | 20 |
| Cisco (lake herring) | no limit<br>(see Special Regulations for Tiber Reservoir and Marias River) |
| Lake trout | 3 |
| Northern pike | 10 |
| Pallid sturgeon | 0<br>it is unlawful to take a pallid sturgeon |
| Salmon | 10 |
| Sauger/Walleye | 5 daily and 10 in possession |
| Shovelnose sturgeon | 5, none over 40 inches |
| Tiger muskellunge | 1, minimum 30-inch length |
| Whitefish | 100 |

## Lakes & Reservoirs

| Species | Daily and Possession limits |
|---|---|
| Combined Trout Limit<br>(includes the following in any combination):<br>Brown trout<br>Rainbow trout<br>Golden trout<br>Cutthroat trout<br>Grayling | 5 daily and 10 in possession |



# CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check the following list of waters for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of Special Regulations, all of the standard seasons, daily/possession limits, and statewide regulations apply. **For waters listed under the Special Regulations, the possession limit is the same as the daily limit, unless a different possession limit is specified.**

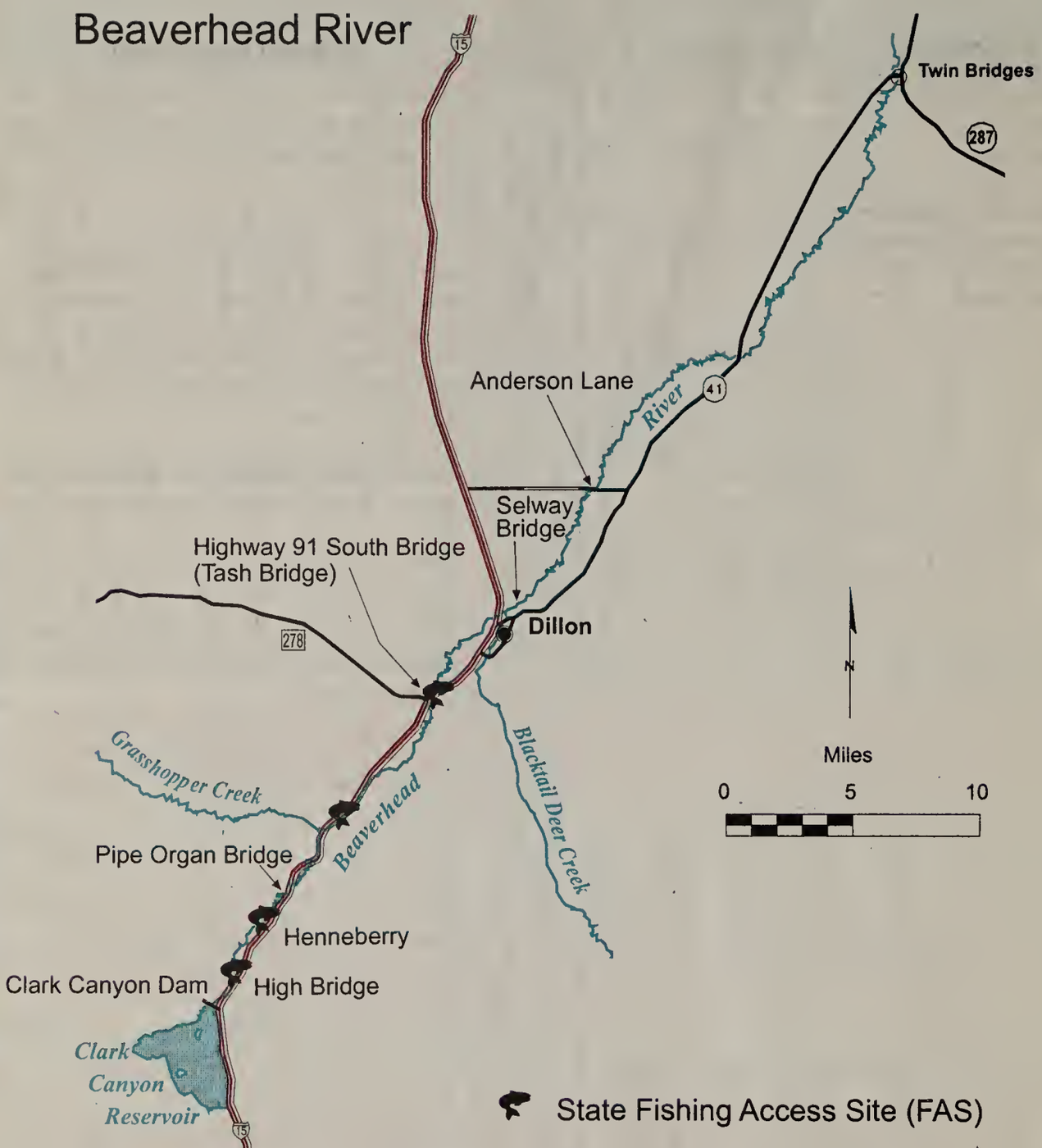
| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABSOROKA-BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS LAKES | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily. |
| ALDER GULCH CREEK | including dredge ponds | | X | | | | | Open entire year from mouth to Virginia City. |
| ANTELOPE BUTTE LAKE | see Ostle Reservoir(Teton County) | | | | | | | |
| ARMSTRONG SPRING CREEK | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release only. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| AROD LAKE | see Eyraud Lakes | | | | | | | |
| AXOLOTL LAKES | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, catch-and-release for grayling. |
| BAD CANYON CREEK | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| BADGER CREEK DRAINAGE | downstream from confluence of North Badger and South Badger creeks within National Forest (near Heart Butte) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches, includes cutthroat trout. |
| BEAN LAKE | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, only 1 over 18 inches. |
| BEAR LAKE | (Sun River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily. |
| BEAVER CREEK | mouth to US Highway 12 (tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir) | | X | | | | | Open June 15 through September 30. |
| BEAVER CREEK | (tributary to Missouri River below Hauser Dam) | | X | | | | | Open June 15 through November 30. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.** Combined Trout Limit = brown, rainbow and golden trout in rivers & streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BEAVERHEAD RIVER<br>See Map<br><br>See FWP pamphlet for more information about outfitter use restrictions. | ***Clark Canyon Dam to Anderson Lane*** | | | | X | | | ***Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, only 1 over 18 inches and only 1 rainbow trout.*** |
| | Clark Canyon Dam to Pipe Organ Bridge | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through November 30. |
| | High Bridge FAS to Henneberry FAS | | | | | | X | Closed to float fishing by nonresidents and float outfitting on each Saturday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day. |
| | Henneberry FAS to Pipe Organ Bridge | | | | | | X | Closed to float fishing by nonresidents and float outfitting on each Sunday from the third Sunday in May through Labor Day. |
| | downstream from Pipe Organ Bridge | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | Highway 91 South Bridge (Tash Bridge) to Selway Bridge | | | | | | X | Closed to float outfitting from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day. |
| | Anderson Lane to mouth | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, 1 over 18 inches, only 1 may be a rainbow trout. |
| BELT CREEK | | | X | | | | | Open entire year downstream from bridge at Riceville. |



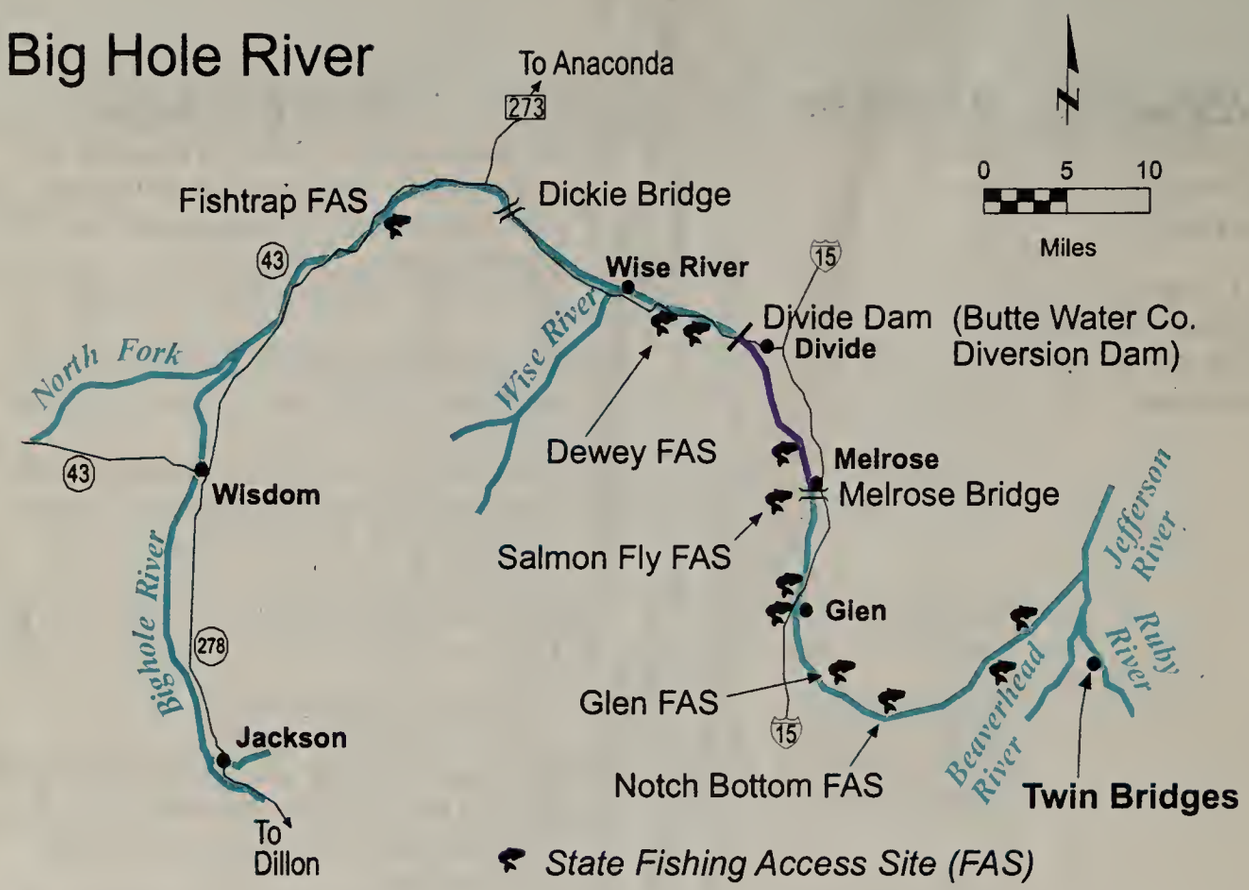
**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify sauger and cutthroat trout.**


Beaverhead River
15
Twin Bridges
287
Anderson Lane
River
41
Selway
Bridge
Highway 91 South Bridge
(Tash Bridge)
278
Dillon
N
Miles
0
5
10
Grasshopper Creek
Beaverhead
Blacktail Deer Creek
Pipe Organ Bridge
Henneberry
Clark Canyon Dam
High Bridge
Clark
Canyon
Reservoir
15
State Fishing Access Site (FAS)

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BIG HOLE RIVER and tributaries See Map<br><br>See FWP pamphlet for more information about outfitter use restrictions. | | | | | | | X | All float users are limited to a total of 2 launches at or near each official access site each day. See Big Hole River map for official access sites. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for grayling and cutthroat trout. |
| | headwaters to Fishtrap FAS | | | | | | X | Closed to float outfitting on each Tuesday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day. |
| | headwaters to Dickie Bridge | | X | | | | | Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only. |
| | Fishtrap FAS to Jerry Creek FAS | | | | | | X | Closed to float outfitting on each Thursday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day. |
| | Dickie Bridge to Divide Dam (Butte Water Diversion) | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | X | | | | | Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only. |
| | Jerry Creek FAS to Divide FAS | | | | | | X | Closed to float fishing by nonresidents and float outfitting on each Saturday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day. |
| | Divide Dam to Melrose Bridges (Salmon Fly FAS) | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | X | | | | | Closed to all fishing December 1 to third Saturday in May. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 4 daily, 3 under 13 inches and 1 over 22 inches. All trout between 13 and 22 inches must be released. |
| | | | | | | | X | Closed to float fishing by nonresidents or float outfitting on each Sunday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day. |
| | tributaries upstream from Divide Dam | | X | | | | | Brook trout: open entire year. |
| | Melrose Bridges (S. Fly FAS) to Glen FAS (bridges) | | | | | | X | Closed to float outfitting on each Monday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day. |
| | Melrose Bridges (Salmon Fly FAS) to mouth | | X | | | | | Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only. |
| | Glen FAS (bridges) to Notch Bottom FAS | | | | | | X | Closed to float outfitting on each Friday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day. |
| | Notch Bottom FAS to High Road FAS | | | | | | X | Closed to float outfitting on each Wednesday from the third Saturday in May through Labor Day. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit = brown, rainbow and golden trout in rivers & streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.**

# Big Hole River



| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BIG SHEEP CREEK and tributaries | (Beaverhead River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout except it is catch-and-release for cutthroat trout in Meadow, Muddy and Simpson creeks. |
| BIG SPRING CREEK | (near Lewistown) | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| BIGHORN LAKE and Afterbay Reservoir | | | | | X | | | ***Bass: 6 daily.*** |
| | | | | | X | | | Catfish: 6 daily. |
| | | | | | X | | | ***Sauger/Walleye: 6 in any combination.*** |
| | | | | | | X | | Up to 6 attended lines, with 1 hook per line allowed through the ice only. |
| | | | | | | X | | Anglers obtaining live bait fish in Montana may only use them in the Montana portion of the lake. |
| BIGHORN RIVER See Map | Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and downstream from Bighorn FAS | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 18 inches and only 1 rainbow trout. |
| | | | | | | X | | May use live nongame bait fish (as identified in standard district regulations). |
| | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | cable 600 feet downstream from Afterbay Dam to Bighorn FAS | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 brown trout, only 1 over 18 inches, catch-and-release for rainbow trout. |
| BLACK SANDS SPRING CREEK | (tributary to South Fork Madison River) | | X | | | | | Open June 15 through November 30. |
| BLACKTAIL DEER CREEK and tributaries | (Beaverhead River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout except it is catch-and-release for cutthroat trout in Cottonwood, Jake and Rock creeks, and the two Rock Creek reservoirs on Robb-Ledford WMA. |
| BLUEWATER CREEK | | | | | | | | See Clarks Fork Yellowstone River. |
| BOULDER RIVER and tributaries | (near Big Timber) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 2 daily, only 1 over 13 inches. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | Natural Bridge to Two-Mile Bridge (first crossing, 5 road miles upstream from Natural Bridge) | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for rainbow trout. |
| | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify sauger and cutthroat trout.**

CENTRAL

# Bighorn River

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BOULDER RIVER | mouth to bridge (4 straight-line miles upstream in T2N, R3W, S24) (near Cardwell) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through September 30. |
| BRIMSTONE CREEK | (tributary to Hidden Lake, Madison County) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in June through November 30. |
| BUFFALO CREEK | (fork of Slough Creek) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, includes up to 3 cutthroat trout (none over 12 inches), only 1 rainbow trout over 18 inches. |
| BYNUM RESERVOIR | | | | | | X | | Open entire year for up to 2 unattended lines (setlines) with no more than 2 hooks per line, except 6 lines with 6 hooks per line may be used to fish through the ice. |
| CANYON FERRY RESERVOIR | | | | | | X | | 6 unattended lines (setlines) with 2 hooks per line may be used through the ice. |
| | | | | | X | | | Walleye: 20 daily and 40 in possession, ***only 1 over 28 inches.*** |
| | | | | | X | | | Yellow perch: 50 daily and no possession limit. |
| | Magpie Bay | | X | | | | | Closed (as posted) March 1 through June 14. |
| | Canyon Ferry Dam Structure | X | | | | | | Closed as posted. |
| CLARK CANYON RESERVOIR | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| | springs entering the reservoir at its south end, near Red Rock River | X | | | | | | Closed as posted. |
| CLARKS FORK YELLOWSTONE RIVER and tributaries | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | mainstem downstream from the bridge at Bridger | | X | | | | | ***Fishing is allowed the entire year with up to 2 attended lines and up to 2 hooks per line.*** |
| CLIFF LAKE | (Madison River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| CONFEDERATE GULCH | mouth to Highway 284 (tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir) | | X | | | | | Open June 15 through September 30. |
| CROOKED CREEK | (Carbon County) | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| CULVER POND | aka Widow's Pool (Beaverhead County) | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | | X | | | Brook trout: 5 daily, 4 under 12 inches and 1 over 18 inches. All brook trout between 12 and 18 inches must be released. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open July 15 through September 30. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.** Combined Trout Limit = brown, rainbow and golden trout in rivers & streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CUT BANK CREEK | | | X | | | | | Open entire year downstream of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation boundary in T33N, R6W, S2. |
| DAILEY LAKE | (Yellowstone River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| DARLINGTON DITCH (Darlington Spring Creek) | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for trout. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open entire year except the section closed to fishing at Cobblestone FAS. |
| | ***on Cobblestone Fishing Access Site (near Three Forks)*** | X | | | | | | ***Closed from a point 500 yards above the northern boundary of Cobblestone FAS, as posted, downstream approximately 1.5 miles, as posted.*** |
| DEADMANS BASIN RESERVOIR | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 10 daily. |
| | | | | | | | X | Snagging: open for salmon through the ice only: 35 daily and 70 in possession. |
| DEARBORN RIVER | upstream from Highway 434 Bridge in T18N R6W, Section 29 | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, only 1 over 12 inches, includes cutthroat trout. |
| DEEP CREEK | mouth to North Fork of Deep Creek (upper Missouri River tributary near Townsend) | | X | | | | | Open June 15 through September 30. |
| DICKENS LAKE | (Sun River Wildlife Management Area) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through November 30. |
| DIVERSION LAKE | (Sun River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. Catch-and-release for grayling. |
| DRY CREEK | mouth to Flynn Lane (upper Missouri River tributary near Townsend) | | X | | | | | Open June 15 through September 30. |
| EAST BOULDER RIVER | | | | | | | | See Boulder River near Big Timber. |
| EAST FORK BOULDER RIVER | | | | | | | | See Boulder River near Big Timber. |
| EAST FORK HYALITE CREEK | | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in July through November 30. |
| | | | | | X | | | ***Combined Trout Limit: standard limits, includes cutthroat trout.*** |
| EAST GALLATIN RIVER | | | X | | | | | Open entire year downstream from the mouth of Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek. |
| EAST ROSEBUD CREEK | | | | | | | | See Stillwater River. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify sauger and cutthroat trout.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ELK LAKE | (Beaverhead County) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for lake trout. |
| ELKS CLUB POND | (Lewistown) | | | | | | X | Open to fishing for anglers ***14*** years of age and younger. |
| EYRAUD LAKES | aka Arod Lakes | | | | | X | | 6 unattended lines (setlines) with 2 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice only. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike and nongame fish through the ice only. |
| FAIRGROUNDS POND | near Helena | | | | | | X | Open to fishing only for anglers ***14*** years of age and younger. |
| FERGUSON LAKE | (Bighole River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| FISHTAIL CREEK | | | | | | | | See Stillwater River. |
| FOOLHEN LAKE | (Big Hole River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| GALLATIN RIVER | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | Yellowstone National Park to East Gallatin River | | | | | | X | Closed to fishing from boats. |
| GHENY POND | (near Twin Bridges) | | | | | | X | Open to fishing only to anglers ***14*** years of age and younger. |
| GIANT SPRINGS | (near Great Falls) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year where enclosed by concrete walks and masonry work. |
| GIBSON RESERVOIR | Gibson Dam upstream to the point where the North and South forks of the Sun River meet, regardless of reservoir levels | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. Catch-and-release for grayling. |
| GOOSE LAKE | (Madison County) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in June through November 30. |
| HARRISON RESERVOIR | | | | | | | | See Willow Creek Reservoir. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.** Combined Trout Limit = brown, rainbow and golden trout in rivers & streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HAUSER RESERVOIR | (includes Canyon Ferry Dam tailwater and Lake Helena) | | | | | X | | 6 unattended lines (setlines) with 2 hooks per line through the ice only. |
| | | X | | | | | | Closed to fishing from midnight to 3 a.m. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout and Salmon Limits: 5 trout and salmon daily in any combination and 10 trout and salmon in possession in any combination. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch and release for brown trout. |
| | | | | | X | | | Walleye: 10 daily, only 1 over 28 inches. |
| | | | | | X | | | Yellow perch: 50 daily and no possession limit. |
| | Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| HEBGEN RESERVOIR | aka Hebgen Lake | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| HELENA VALLEY REGULATING RESERVOIR | | | | | | X | | 3 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line through the ice only. |
| | | | | | | | X | Snagging: open for salmon September 1 through October 31, 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession. |
| HELLROARING CREEK | (Yellowstone River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Cutthroat trout: 3 daily, none over 12 inches. |
| HELLS CANYON CREEK | (Jefferson River Drainage) | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for rainbow trout. |
| HIDDEN LAKE | (Madison County) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in June through November 30. |
| HIDDEN LAKE | (Teton County) | | | | | | | See Our Lake. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify sauger and cutthroat trout.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HOLTER RESERVOIR | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | | X | | | | | | Closed to fishing from midnight to 3 a.m. |
| | | | | | | X | | 6 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line through the ice only. |
| | | | | | X | | | Walleye: 6 daily (5 under 20 inches and 1 over 28 inches). All walleye between 20 and 28 inches must be released. |
| | | | | | X | | | Yellow perch: 50 daily and no possession limit. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout and Salmon Limits: 5 rainbow trout and salmon daily in any combination and 10 rainbow trout and salmon in possession in any combination. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release: brown trout. |
| | Holter Dam - Abutment and spillway structures below the dam | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| HYALITE CREEK | aka West Fork Hyalite Creek | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in July through November 30. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: standard limits, includes cutthroat trout. |
| HYALITE RESERVOIR | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. Catch-and-release for grayling. |
| | tributaries to Hyalite Reservoir (East Fork Hyalite Creek and West Fork Hyalite Creek) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in July through November 30. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: standard limits, includes cutthroat trout. |
| INDIAN ROAD POND | | | | | | | X | Open to fishing for anglers ***14*** years of age and younger, holders of a "Resident Person with a Disability Conservation License" and holders of a "Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle" with the proper prerequisite fishing license. |
| JEFFERSON RIVER | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | ***confluence of Beaverhead and Big Hole rivers to Williams Bridge FAS*** | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: ***3 brown trout***, only 1 over 18 inches. Catch-and-release for rainbow trout. |
| | Williams Bridge FAS to confluence with Missouri River | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 brown trout, only 1 over 18 inches. Catch-and-release for rainbow trout. |
| KIYO CRAG LAKE | (Pondera County) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit = brown, rainbow and golden trout in rivers & streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LAKE ELWELL | | | | | | | | See Tiber Reservoir. |
| LAKE FRANCES | | X | | | | | | Closed entire year around the water supply outlet as posted. |
| | | | | | | X | | Open entire year for up to 2 unattended lines (setlines) with no more than 2 hooks per line, except 6 lines with 6 hooks per line may be used to fish through the ice. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling) and nongame fish through the ice only. |
| LAKE HELENA | | | | | | | | Hauser Reservoir fishing regulations apply. |
| LAKE LEVALE | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily and 10 in possession, only 3 may be grayling. |
| LIGHTNING CREEK | (Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness) | | X | | | | | Open August 1 through November 30. |
| LITTLE PRICKLY PEAR CREEK | (tributary to Missouri River near Craig) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through Labor Day downstream from the I-15 Bridge near Sieben (T13N, R4W, Section 4). |
| LYMAN CREEK | (near Bozeman) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year from the city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted. |

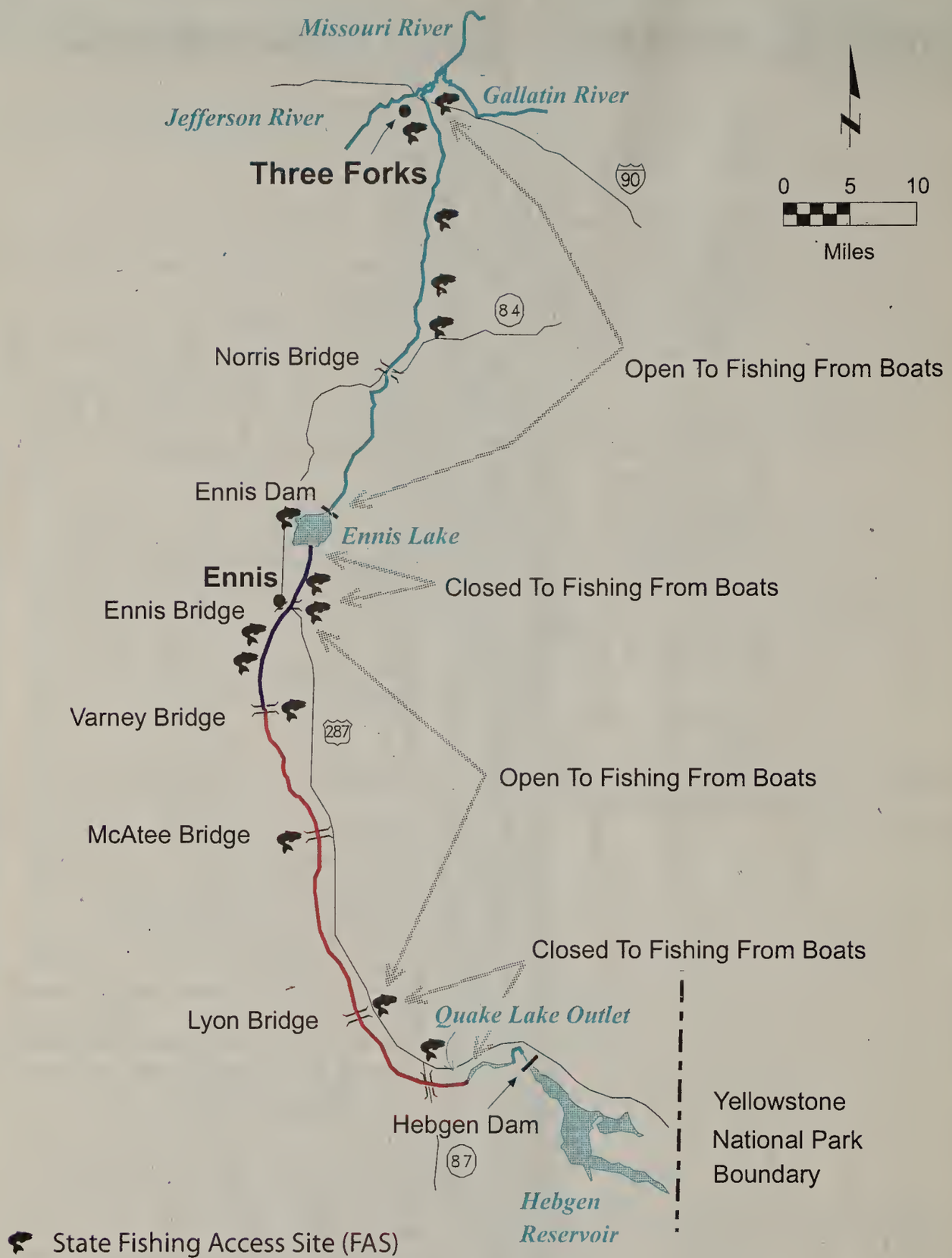


**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify sauger and cutthroat trout.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MADISON RIVER See Map | Yellowstone National Park boundary to Hebgen Reservoir | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for rainbow trout, standard limits apply for other trout. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30. |
| | Hebgen Dam to Quake Lake | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | Quake Lake outlet to McAtee Bridge | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through end of February. |
| | Quake Lake outlet to Varney Bridge | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for trout. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through the end of February. |
| | Quake Lake outlet to Lyons Bridge | | | | | | X | Closed to fishing from boats. |
| | McAtee Bridge to Ennis Bridge | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | Ennis Bridge to Ennis Lake | | | | | | X | Closed to fishing from boats |
| | | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through the end of February. |
| | Varney Bridge to Ennis Lake | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 brown trout, only 1 over 18 inches. Catch-and-release for rainbow trout. |
| | Ennis Dam to the mouth | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| MAGPIE CREEK | (tributary to Canyon Ferry Reservoir) | | X | | | | | Open June 15 through September 30. |
| MARIAS RIVER | | | | | | X | | 2 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line. |
| | | | | | X | | | Whitefish: 35 daily, must be killed upon capture or released immediately. |
| | | | | | X | | | Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily only 1 may be a sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 2 may be sauger. ***All fish must be kept whole, gills and entrails may be removed, until you are off the water and done fishing for the day. See Statewide Regulations for transport requirements.*** |
| | | | X | | | | | Open entire year downstream from I-15 Bridge. |
| | | | | | | | X | Cisco: must be killed upon capture or released immediately. |
| MCDONALDS POND | (Beaverhead County) | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | X | | | | | Open July 15 through September 30. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 1 rainbow trout over 20 inches. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit = brown, rainbow and golden trout in rivers & streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.**

# Madison River




CENTRAL

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MIDVALE CREEK | | X | | | | | | Closed entire year from intake of Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply to the park boundary. |
| MILL CREEK | (near Sheridan) | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| MISSOURI RIVER See Map | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| Regulations for Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Hauser Reservoir and Holter Reservoir are listed separately | Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry Reservoir | X | | | | | | Toston Dam structure closed entire year as posted. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: catch-and-release for brown trout between 18 and 24 inches. |
| | | | X | | | | | Localized spawning areas closed as posted from March 1 through June 15. |
| | | | | | X | | | Walleye: 20 daily and 40 in possession. |
| | Canyon Ferry Dam to Hauser Dam | | | | | | | Hauser Reservoir regulations apply. |
| | | X | | | | | | Posted area just below Canyon Ferry Dam closed entire year. |
| | Hauser Dam to Holter Reservoir | X | | | | | | Hauser Dam structure and adjacent waters as posted are closed entire year. |
| | | | | | | | X | Waters from Hauser Dam to American Bar Gulch (T12N, R3W, Section 11) approximately 4.6 miles downstream are considered Missouri River for the purpose of fishing regulations. |
| | | | | | X | | | Walleye: 5 under 20 inches and 1 over 28 inches. All walleye between 20 and 28 inches must be released. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for brown trout. |
| | ***Holter Dam to mouth of Dearborn River*** | X | | | | | | Holter Dam abutment and spillway structures below dam closed entire year. |
| | | | | | X | | | ***Combined Trout Limit: 1 rainbow trout, any size and 1 brown trout, 22-inch minimum.*** |
| | mouth of Dearborn River to Cascade Bridge | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 rainbow trout, only 1 over 16 inches and 1 brown trout, 22-inch minimum. |
| | between the bridges at Craig and Sheep Creek | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for up to 5 whitefish daily with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged. |
| | Morony Dam to Fort Benton | | | | | X | | 6 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line. |
| | | X | | | | | | Morony Dam structure and adjacent waters closed entire year as posted. |
| | | | | | X | | | ***Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 1 may be a sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 2 may be sauger. All fish must be kept whole, gills and entrails may be removed, until you are off the water and done fishing for the day. See Statewide Regulations for transport requirements.*** |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify sauger and cutthroat trout.**

Missouri River
Fort Benton
87
River
Morony Dam
Great Falls
87
To Lewistown
15
Missouri
Cascade
Cascade Bridge
Dearborn River
Sheep Creek Bridge
287
Craig Bridge
Holter Dam
Holter Reservoir
Missouri
American Bar Gulch
Hauser Dam
15
Hauser Reservoir
Canyon Ferry Dam
Helena
Canyon Ferry Reservoir
To Butte
12
To White Sulphur Springs
River
0 5 10
Miles
Toston Dam
287
NOTE: State Fishing Access Sites not shown due to small scale of map.
To Butte
Three Forks
90
To Bozeman

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MUSSELSHELL RIVER | downstream from where North and South forks meet | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| NELSON SPRING CREEK | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release only. |
| | | | | | | | X | Open entire year. |
| NORTH FORK BIRCH CREEK DRAINAGE | within National Forest (near Dupuyer) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches. |
| NORTH FORK SUN RIVER and tributaries | upstream from Gibson Reservoir | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, only 1 over 12 inches, includes cutthroat trout. (This limit applies upstream from the point where the North and South forks of the Sun River meet, regardless of reservoir level.) |
| NORTH FORK TETON RIVER DRAINAGE | within National Forest (near Choteau) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches. |
| NORTH WILLOW CREEK | (near Harrison) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in June through November 30 from the Highway 287 Bridge to Harrison Reservoir. |
| NORWEGIAN CREEK | (near Harrison) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in June through November 30 from the Highway 287 Bridge to Harrison Reservoir. |
| O'BRIEN CREEK | | X | | | | | | Closed entire year above the intake to the Neihart public water supply. |
| ODELL CREEK | (Red Rock River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout. |
| OSTLE RESERVOIR | aka Antelope Butte Lake (Teton County) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through November 30. |
| OTTER LAKE | (Madison County) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in June through November 30. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 1 rainbow trout daily. |
| OUR LAKE | aka Hidden Lake (Teton County) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily. |
| PINEY CREEK | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| PISHKUN RESERVOIR | | | | | | X | | 6 lines with 2 hooks per line may be used to fish through the ice. |
| | | | | | | | X | Snagging: open for salmon September 1 through December 31, 35 daily and 70 in possession. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only. |
| POINDEXTER SLOUGH | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release: December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures only. |

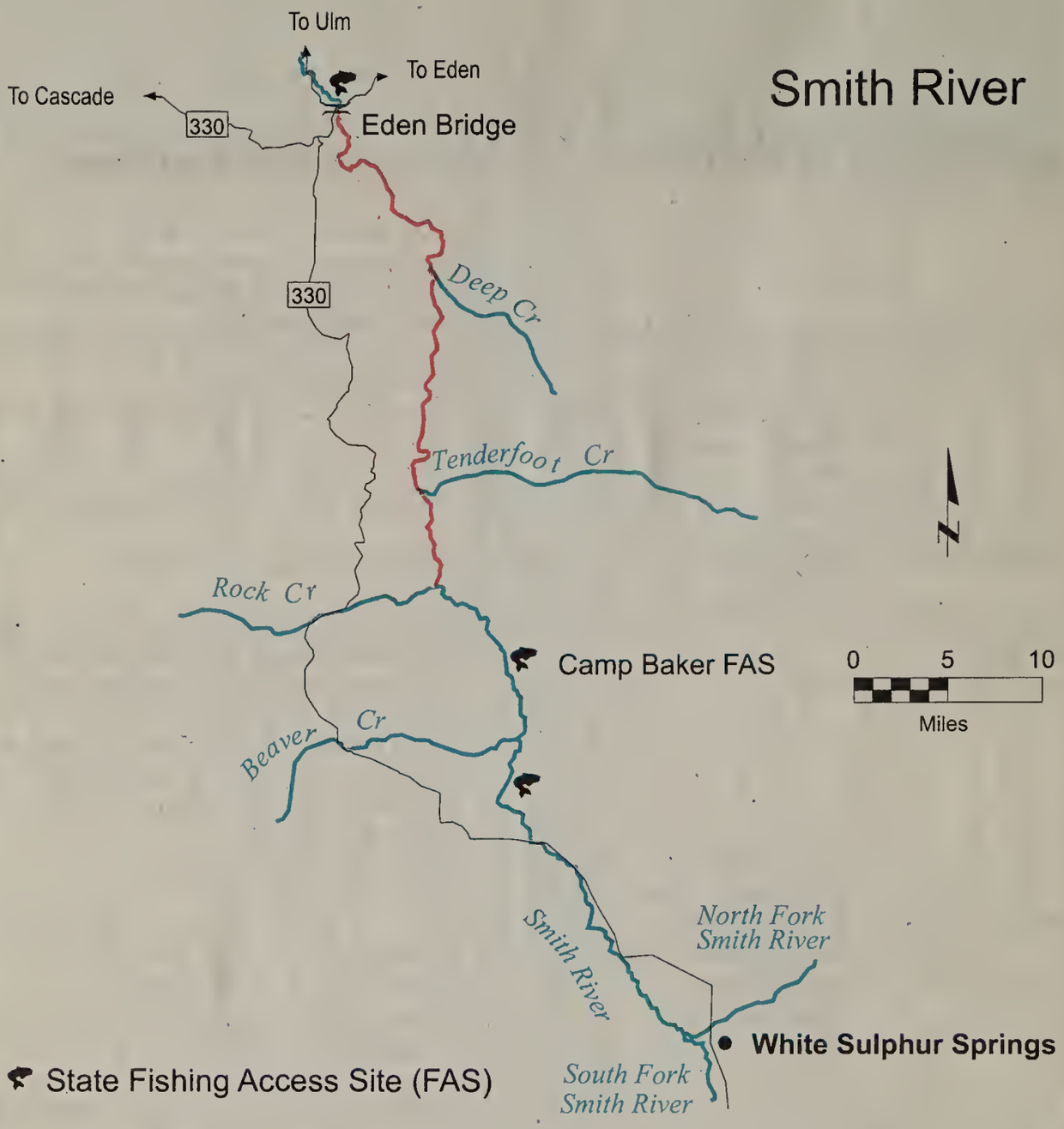
**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit = brown, rainbow and golden trout in rivers & streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PRIEST BUTTE LAKE | | | X | | | | | Open June 15 through September 15 and December 1 through the end of February. |
| ***PRYOR CREEK*** | | | X | | | | | ***Open entire year.*** |
| QUAKE LAKE | (Madison River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| RAT LAKE | (Gallatin River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| | | X | | | | | | The unnamed tributary to the lake, ***inlet and outlet***, is closed entire year. |
| RATTLESNAKE CREEK and tributaries | (near Dillon, Beaverhead County) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout, except catch-and-release for cutthroat trout on Cat Creek. |
| RED ROCK CREEK | (Beaverhead River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout. |
| ***RED ROCK RIVER*** | ***Lima Dam to Clark Canyon Reservoir*** | | | | X | | | ***Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, only one over 18 inches.*** |
| RENSHAW LAKE | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily. |
| ROCK CREEK and tributaries | (tributary to Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone) | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | | | | | | | | See West Fork Rock Creek. |
| RUBY RIVER and tributaries | upstream from Ruby Reservoir | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout except catch-and-release for cutthroat trout in Cottonwood (near Cottonwood Camp), Geyser, Idaho, Robb, Sweetwater and Whitebear creeks. |
| | downstream from Ruby Dam | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, only 1 over 15 inches. |
| | | | X | | | | | Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only. |
| | | X | | | | | | Closed entire year just below Ruby Dam (that portion of the Ruby River from its confluence with the Ruby Dam outlet channel upstream to the dam, including the outlet channel). |
| ***SAGE CREEK*** | ***(Pryor Mountains)*** | | X | | | | | ***Open entire year.*** |
| SAWTOOTH LAKE | (Beaverhead River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 1 golden trout. |
| SCOTT LAKE | (Beaverhead River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify sauger and cutthroat trout.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SHIELDS RIVER | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | | | X | | | | | Extended season for whitefish and catch-and release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May ***with artificial lures and/or maggots only.*** |
| SILVER CREEK | (near Marysville) | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release: from Gold Sil Mine to Green Meadow Drive. |
| | downstream from I-15 bridge near Helena | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through Labor Day. |
| SLOUGH CREEK | (Yellowstone River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Cutthroat trout: 3 daily, none over 12 inches. |
| SMITH LAKE | (Madison River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| SMITH RIVER See Map | | | | | | | | Floating on the Smith River between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge is strictly limited. Mandatory registration, floaters fee and other regulations apply. A drawing for launch dates is held in February with remaining launches filled on a first-come basis. Contact the Great Falls FWP office at 406-454-5840 for more information. |
| | downstream from confluence of North and South forks | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | confluence of Rock Creek to Eden (Huntsberger) Bridge | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily under 13 inches and 1 over 22 inches. All trout between 13 and 22 inches must be released. |
| | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only, except anglers ***14*** years of age and younger may use bait all year and ***maggots*** may be used by all anglers from December 1 to third Saturday in May. |
| SOCK LAKE | (Sun River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily. |
| SODA BUTTE CREEK | (Yellowstone River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Cutthroat trout: 3 daily, none over 12 inches. |
| SOUTH FORK BIRCH CREEK DRAINAGE | within National Forest (near Dupuyer) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches. |
| SOUTH FORK DUPUYER CREEK DRAINAGE | within National Forest (near Dupuyer) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches. |
| SOUTH FORK SUN RIVER and tributaries | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, only 1 over 12 inches, includes cutthroat trout. (This limit applies upstream from the point where the North and South forks of the Sun River meet, regardless of reservoir level.) |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit = brown, rainbow and golden trout in rivers & streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.**


Smith River
To Ulm
To Eden
To Cascade
330
Eden Bridge
330
Deep Cr
Tenderfoot Cr
Rock Cr
Camp Baker FAS
Beaver Cr
Smith River
North Fork
Smith River
White Sulphur Springs
South Fork
Smith River
N
0
5
10
Miles
State Fishing Access Site (FAS)

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SOUTH FORK TWO MEDICINE RIVER DRAINAGE | within National Forest | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily, none over 12 inches. |
| SOUTH WILLOW CREEK | (near Harrison) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in June through November 30 from the Highway 287 Bridge to Harrison Reservoir. |
| SPLIT ROCK LAKE | | | | | | X | | 6 lines with 2 hooks per line may be used to fish through the ice. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for northern pike through the ice only. |
| SPRING MEADOW LAKE | | | | | | X | | Open to fishing with hook and line only. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| | | | | | X | | | Bass: 1 daily. |
| STILLWATER RIVER and tributaries | | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 2 daily, only 1 over 13 inches. |
| SUN RIVER | | | X | | | | | Open entire year downstream from Gibson Dam. |
| SUNNY SLOPE CANAL | downstream from Pishkun Reservoir | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for grayling. |
| SWAZEE LAKE | (Sun River Wildlife Management Area) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through November 30. |
| TAHEPIA LAKE | (Wise River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| TETON RIVER | downstream from Highway 89 Bridge | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| TIBER RESERVOIR | aka Lake Elwell | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for whitefish and cisco. Must be immediately released upon capture. |
| | | | | | | X | | 6 attended or unattended lines with up to 6 hooks per line may be used through the ice. |
| | | | | | | X | | 2 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line may be used during the ice free period. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for nongame fish, northern pike, walleye, sauger and burbot (ling) through the ice and by persons swimming or submerged. |
| TOSTON DAM | | X | | | | | | Dam structure closed entire year as posted. |
| TRAIL CREEK and tributaries | (Beaverhead River Drainage) near Horse Prairie | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: includes cutthroat trout. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout on Bear Creek. |
| TUNNEL LAKE | (Teton County) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: includes 1 grayling. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify sauger and cutthroat trout.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TWIN LAKES | (upper Big Hole River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily. |
| | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for lake trout. |
| VIGILANTE POND | (near Virginia City) | | | | | | X | Open to fishing only for anglers ***14*** years of age and younger. |
| WADE LAKE | (Madison County) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| | | X | | | | | | Spawning channel and channel inlet closed as posted. |
| WARM SPRINGS CREEK | (near Lewistown) | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| WARM SPRINGS CREEK | (upper Missouri River tributary, near Townsend) | | X | | | | | Open June 15 through September 30. |
| WAUKENA LAKE | (Big Hole River Drainage) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| WEST BOULDER RIVER | near Big Timber | | | | | | | See Boulder River. |
| WEST FORK HYALITE CREEK | | | | | | | | See Hyalite Creek. |
| WEST FORK MADISON RIVER | | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for rainbow trout. |
| WEST FORK ROCK CREEK | Red Lodge water intake to 1,000 feet upstream | X | | | | | | Closed entire year. |
| WEST FORK STILLWATER RIVER | | | | | | | | See Stillwater River. |
| WEST ROSEBUD CREEK | | | | | | | | See Stillwater River. |
| WIDOW'S POOL | | | | | | | | See Culver Pond. |
| WILLOW CREEK and tributaries | (Meagher County) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year from White Sulphur Springs public water intake to its source. |
| WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR | aka Harrison Reservoir (Madison County) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily. |
| | Willow Creek arm, as posted | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through February 28. |
| | tributaries to reservoir - (North Willow, South Willow and Norwegian creeks) near Harrison from the Highway 287 Bridges to reservoir | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in June through November 30. |
| WILLOW SPRINGS CREEK | (tributary to the Jefferson River) | | | | X | | | Catch-and-release for rainbow trout. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified. Combined Trout Limit = brown, rainbow and golden trout in rivers & streams, and also cutthroat trout and grayling in lakes.**

# Yellowstone River

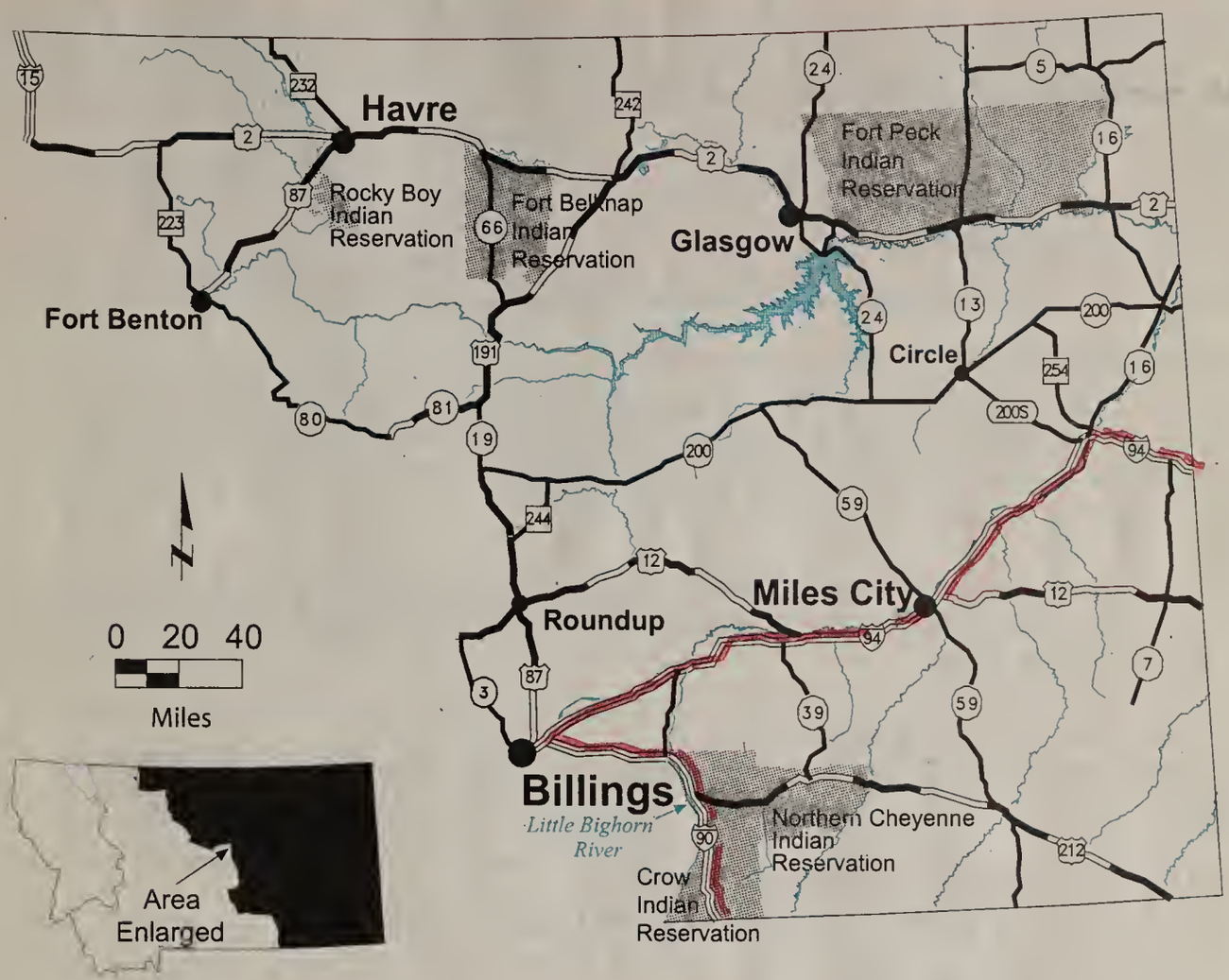
State Fishing Access Site (FAS)

Not all Fishing Access Sites are shown. Contact a regional MFWP office for a list of all Fishing Access Sites and their locations.

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| YELLOWSTONE RIVER See Map | Yellowstone National Park boundary to I-90 Bridge at Billings | | X | | | | | Open entire year. |
| | Yellowstone National Park Boundary to Highway 78 Bridge at Columbus | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |
| | Emigrant Bridge to Pine Creek Bridge | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 brown and rainbow trout, 4 under 13 inches and 1 over 22 inches. All brown trout between 13 and 22 inches must be released. |
| | | | | | | X | | Artificial lures only, except anglers 14 years of age and younger may use bait. |
| | | | X | | | | | Extended season for whitefish and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with artificial lures and/or maggots only. |
| | Highway 78 Bridge at Columbus to I-90 Bridge at Billings | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily only 1 over 18 inches, includes cutthroat trout. |
| | mouth of Clarks Fork to I-90 Bridge at Billings | | X | | | | | Open entire year for up to 2 attended lines with up to 2 hooks per line. |
| | | | | | | X | | Live fish (except sculpin, yellow perch, carp, goldfish, all species in the sunfish family, bullheads (catfish family) and rainbow smelt) may be used as bait (including feeder streams and ditches). |
| | all tributaries to the Yellowstone River (including the Shields River and its tributaries) between the Yellowstone National Park boundary and Springdale (approximately 18 miles east of Livingston) | | | X | | | | Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout. |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify sauger and cutthroat trout.**

# EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT




Areas excluded from fishing districts.
Additional regulations may apply.
Other federal or tribal permits may be required.

**The Eastern Fishing District includes all waters lying east of the Central Fishing District. For the boundary description, see Central Fishing District, page 41.**

**Note: Roadways that are used as boundaries between the Central and Eastern Fishing Districts are interpreted to be in the Central Fishing District.**

For additional information regarding the boundaries of this district, please call the following regional headquarters Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00:

**Billings ..... 406-247-2940**
**Glasgow ..... 406-228-3700**
**Great Falls ..... 406-454-5840**
**Havre Area Resource Office ..... 406-265-6177**
**Lewistown Area Office ..... 406-538-4658**
**Miles City ..... 406-232-0900**
**TDD ..... 406-444-1200**
**(Telephone device for the deaf)**

**IMPORTANT EASTERN DISTRICT REGULATION CHANGES**

**Know the Law and Avoid Violations**

Following are some of the waters with important changes that were made from the 2000-2001 fishing regulations. Please read the 2002-2003 regulations thoroughly to avoid unintentional violations. ***New regulations are in italics.***

Bear Paw Lake
Beaver Creek Reservoir
Ft Peck Reservoir
Missouri River
Tongue River Reservoir
Warm Springs Creek (Fergus County)
Yellowstone River

## BOAT AND MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor regulations at the back of this book. A complete, updated, copy of the Montana Boating Laws may be obtained by contacting any FWP office or any FWP license agent.

All passengers under the age of 12 must wear a PFD at all times if the boat is less than 26 feet long. A wearable, U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD must be available for each occupant of any boat.

## STANDARD FISHING SEASONS

All waters open entire year. See Eastern Fishing District Special Regulations for exceptions.

## STANDARD FISHING REGULATIONS

**A valid fishing license is required for all types of fishing.**

### Transporting Live Fish

It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish away from the body of water in which the fish were taken **except** for: 1) transportation of fish for valid commercial purposes; 2) for use as live bait subject to any further restrictions imposed by the FWP Commission; and 3) within the boundaries of the Eastern Fishing District. It is unlawful to possess or transport live fish on roadways that form the boundary between the Eastern and Central fishing districts.

### Warm Water Game Fish Stamp

The 1999 Montana Legislature passed a bill to require the purchase of a warm water game fish stamp. The warm water game fish stamp is required to possess warm water fish on the following waters in the Eastern Fishing District:

Anita Reservoir, Yellowstone County
Bailey Reservoir, Hill County
Baker Lake, Fallon County
Bearpaw Lake, Hill County
Beaver Creek, Wibaux County
Beaver Creek Reservoir, Hill County
Box Elder Creek Reservoir, Sheridan County
Castle Rock Lake, Rosebud County
Catfish Reservoir, Fergus County
Conter's Bass Pond, Yellowstone County
Cow Creek Reservoir, Blaine County
Dry Fork Reservoir, Blaine County
Engdahl Cottonwood Reservoir, Garfield County
Ester Lake, Phillips County
Ft Peck Reservoir

***Ft Peck Dredge Cut Trout Pond, Valley County***
Fresno Reservoir, Hill County
Gartside Lake, Richland County
Haughian Res. (Dan Haughian Res.), Custer County
Hollands Reservoir, Fergus County
Homestead Reservoir, Prairie County
Hopalong Reservoir, Fergus County
Iliad Reservoir, Chouteau County
Johnson Dam, Dawson County
Lake Elmo, Yellowstone County
Little Warm Reservoir Phillips County
Maier Reservoir, Fallon County
Nelson Reservoir, Phillips County
Payola Reservoir, Petroleum County
Petrolia Reservoir, Petroleum County
Schlesinger Reservoir #1, Rosebud County
Schoonover Reservoir #1, Chouteau County
Silvan Pond, Chouteau County
Silvertip Reservoir, Prairie County
South Fork Dry Blood Reservoir, Petroleum County
South Sandstone Reservoir, Fallon County
Talcott Pond, Carter County
Tongue River Reservoir, Big Horn County
Trumbo Pond, Garfield County
Upper Wolf Coulee Reservoir, Fergus County
***Wapiti Reservoir, Phillips County***
***Warm Springs Creek, Fergus County***

**Hook and Line Limits**

- Two attended lines with up to 2 hooks per line may be used on lakes and reservoirs in the Eastern Fishing District.
- All streams in the Little Missouri, Milk, Missouri, Musselshell and Yellowstone drainages are open entire year to 6 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line (see exceptions, Eastern Fishing District Special Regulations and Missouri River (below Fort Peck Dam)).
- Lines shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices.
- Unattended lines (setlines) must be clearly identified with owner's complete name and address.

**Ice Fishing**

Anglers may use up to 6 lines, attended or unattended, with up to 6 hooks per line through the ice in all lakes and reservoirs, except as specified under the Special Regulations for this district.

**Bow and Arrow**

All waters open to angling are open to taking paddlefish and nongame fish by bow and arrow. Crossbows are illegal.

**Snagging**

All waters open to angling are open to snagging paddlefish. Snagging chinook salmon is allowed on Fort Peck Reservoir only from October 1 through November 30. Snagging nongame fish is allowed on all open waters, except the Missouri River and portions of the Yellowstone River, as specified under the district Special Regulations.

**Spearing**

In all waters open to fishing, nongame fish, northern pike and burbot (ling) may be taken with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged.

Spears may be used through the ice for northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling), and nongame fish.

**Hoop Nets**

- The use of hoop nets is permitted in certain areas of the Eastern Fishing District.
- The use of hoop nets is limited to licensed resident anglers.
- A permit is required. Permit applications and rules are available at FWP offices in Billings, Glasgow, and Miles City.

**Bait**

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by FWP.
- No portion of sculpins or salmonids (trout, salmon, grayling, char and whitefish) may be used as bait except eggs. All nongame fish or parts thereof may be used as bait if the heads and entrails are removed, or if they have been preserved or frozen, except in water limited to artificial lures only.
- Live nongame bait fish (except sculpins, carp, goldfish, all species in the sunfish family, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be used in all streams and rivers in the Eastern Fishing District except:
- Milk River and its tributaries upstream from Fresno Dam.
- Streams south of Highway 2 (which originate in the Bears Paw Mountains) and Beaver Creek and Big Sandy Creek upstream from the Highway 87 Bridge.
- Live nongame fish (except sculpins, carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be used for bait only in the following ponds, lakes, reservoirs and impoundments:

***Anita Reservoir, Yellowstone County***
Bailey Reservoir, Hill County
Bainville Railroad Ponds, Roosevelt County
Baker Lake, Fallon County
Beaver Creek Reservoir, Hill County
Box Elder Reservoir, Sheridan County
Buxbaum West Reservoir, Richland County
Castle Rock Lake, Rosebud County
Cole Ponds, Phillips County
Doug Gardner #2 Reservoir, Carter County
Dry Fork Reservoir (Schwarz), Blaine County
Engstrom Reservoir, Sheridan County
Ester Reservoir, Phillips County
Flat Lake, McCone County
Fort Peck Dredge Cut Trout Pond, Valley County
Fort Peck Reservoir
Frenchman Reservoir, Phillips County
Gartside Reservoir, Richland County
Hedstrom Reservoir, McCone County
Johnson Reservoir, Dawson County
Killenbeck Reservoir, Daniels County
Kuester Reservoir, Richland County
Lame Steer Reservoir, Wibaux County
Lee (Sam) Reservoir, Dawson County
Lindsay Reservoir, Dawson County
Little Warm Reservoir, Phillips County
Lyons Reservoir, Blaine County
McChesney Reservoir, Phillips County
Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Sheridan County
Milk River and its impoundments downstream of Fresno Dam
Nelson Reservoir, Phillips County

Petrolia Reservoir, Petroleum County
Raymond Reservoir, Sheridan County
Schlesinger Perch Pond, Rosebud County
South Sandstone Reservoir, Fallon County
Spotted Eagle Pond, Custer County
Talcott Pond, Carter County
Tongue River Reservoir, Big Horn County
Valley Reservoir, Valley County
Whiteside Reservoir, Garfield County
Whitetail Reservoir, Daniels County

## STANDARD DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

- includes all tables below. Refer to Statewide Regulations for additional regulations concerning limits.

- Each angler may take all of the limits listed in the chart, unless noted in the Special Regulations. For species not listed, there are no limits on the number of fish that may be taken or possessed.
- Anglers who move from one fishing water to another may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are currently fishing.
- Irrigation Canals and Ditches – the same daily and possession limits apply as for rivers and streams.

**NOTE:** Native fish of special concern are highlighted in red. Make sure you can identify these species. Many are protected and may not be harvested or may have a special limit to minimize harvest. These fish are an important part of Montana's natural resources; they need your help.

## Eastern District Standard Daily and Possession Limits

### Rivers & Streams

| Species | Daily and Possession limits |
|---|---|
| **Combined Trout Limit** (includes the following in any combination):<br>**Trout** (except lake trout)<br>**Salmon**<br>**Grayling** | 10 |

**Paddlefish Limits**

- 1 paddlefish for Yellowstone River and Missouri River downstream from Fort Peck Dam. Tag required.
- 2 paddlefish for Missouri River up-stream of Fort Peck Dam. Tags required.
- Not to exceed a total of 2 paddlefish per season.
- Anglers must either tag or release paddlefish immediately when caught.

**Special Paddlefish Regulations**

The paddlefish fishery is managed under a harvest target in conjunction with North Dakota. Montana has set regulations so that annual harvest will not exceed 1500 fish. FWP may close the season within 48 hours notice in any year if it appears that the harvest target may otherwise be significantly exceeded. Call the Miles City FWP office at 406-232-0900 for current information on harvest status.

Once a paddlefish tag has been validated, anglers may not snag for paddlefish.

It is unlawful to release paddlefish except in accordance with the catch-and-release regulations on the Yellowstone River at the Intake Dam Fishing Access Site.

## Rivers & Streams and Lakes & Reservoirs

| Species | Daily and Possession limits |
|---|---|
| Bass | 5 |
| Burbot (ling) | 10 |
| Catfish | 20 |
| Crappie | 15 daily and 30 in possession |
| Lake trout | 3 |
| Northern pike | 10 |
| Pallid sturgeon | 0<br>it is unlawful to take a pallid sturgeon |
| Sauger /Walleye | 5 daily and 10 in possession |
| Shovelnose sturgeon | 5, none over 40 inches |
| Tiger muskellunge | 1 over 30 inches |
| Whitefish | No limit |

## Lakes & Reservoirs

| Species | Daily and Possession limits |
|---|---|
| Combined Trout Limit (includes the following in any combination):<br>**Trout** (except lake trout)<br>**Salmon**<br>**Grayling** | 5 |

# EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check the following list of waters for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of Special Regulations, all of the standard seasons, daily/possession limits, and statewide regulations apply. **For waters listed under the Special Regulations, the possession limit is the same as the daily limit, unless otherwise stated.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***BEARPAW LAKE*** | | | | | X | | | ***Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily*** |
| BEAVER CREEK | upstream from Highway 87 Bridge (Bears Paw Mountains, Hill County) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through November 30. |
| BEAVER CREEK RESERVOIR | | | | | X | | | ***Combined Trout Limit: 3 daily.*** |
| | | | | | X | | | Northern pike: no limit. |
| BIG SANDY CREEK | upstream from Highway 87 Bridge (Bears Paw Mountains) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through November 30. |
| CLEAR CREEK | south of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through November 30. |
| COW CREEK | (Bears Paw Mountains) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through November 30. |
| EAGLE CREEK | (Bears Paw Mountains) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through November 30. |
| ESTER RESERVOIR | aka Ester Lake | | | | | X | | 2 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line may be used during the ice-free period. |
| FORT PECK DREDGE CUTS | | | | | | X | | 2 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line may be used during the ice free period. |
| FORT PECK RESERVOIR | aka Fort Peck Lake Fort Peck Dam to Beauchamp Creek and CMR Trail 837 | | | | X | | | ***Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 1 may be a sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 2 may be sauger. All fish must be kept whole, gills and entrails may be removed, until you are off the water and done fishing for the day. See Statewide Regulations for transport requirements.*** |
| | | | | | | X | | 2 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line may be used during the ice-free period. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for walleye, northern pike, burbot and nongame fish to spearing with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.**
**Combined Trout Limit includes salmon, grayling and all trout except lake trout.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FRESNO RESERVOIR | (Hill County) | | | | | X | | 2 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line may be used during the ice-free period. |
| | | | | | X | | | Northern pike: no limit. |
| LITTLE BOXELDER CREEK | south of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through November 30. |
| MARIAS RIVER | | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 18 inches. |
| | | | | | X | | | Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 1 may be a sauger.Possession limit is 10, only 2 may be sauger. ***All fish must be kept whole, gills and entrails may be removed, until you are off the water and done fishing for the day. See Statewide Regulations for transport requirements.*** |
| | | | | | | | X | Whitefish: 35 daily. Whitefish must be killed upon capture or released immediately. |
| | | | | | | | X | Cisco: must be killed upon capture or released immediately. |
| MEDICINE LAKE National Wildlife Refuge | (Sheridan County) | | | | | X | | All lakes are open to 6 unattended lines (setlines) with up to 6 hooks per line. |
| | Medicine Lake | | X | | | | | Open November 15 through September 15. |
| | Gaffney Lake and Lake 10 | | X | | | | | Open August 15 through March 31. |
| | Lake 12 | | X | | | | | Open November 15 through March 31. |

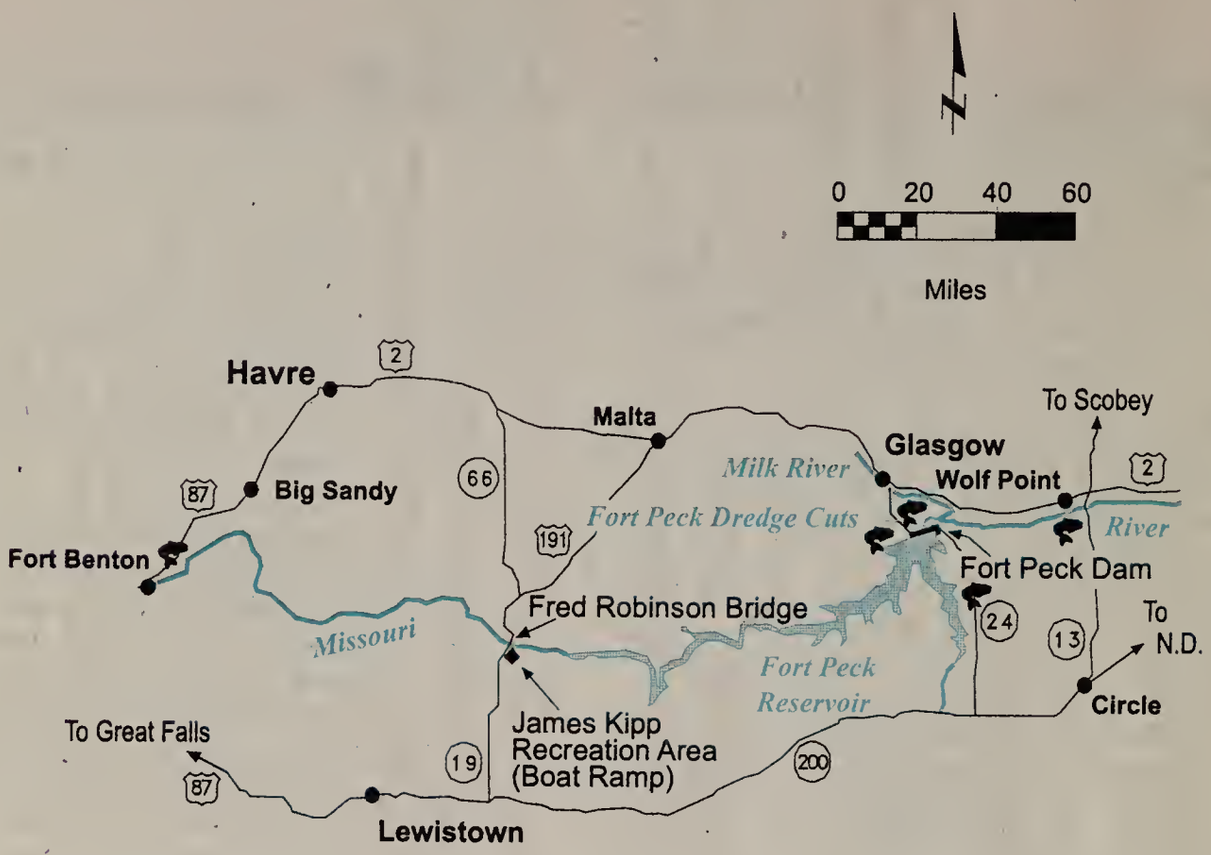
EASTERN

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify sauger.**

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MISSOURI RIVER See Map | entire river | | | | | | X | Snagging: it is illegal to snag for nongame fish from Morony Dam downstream to the North Dakota border. |
| | upstream from Fort Peck Dam to Fort Benton | | X | | | | | Paddlefish: open entire year. See Eastern District standard regulations for limits and important information. |
| | | | | | X | | | ***Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 1 may be a sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 2 may be sauger. All fish must be kept whole, gills and entrails may be removed, until you are off the water and done fishing for the day. See Statewide Regulations for transport requirements.*** |
| | downstream from Fort Peck Dam | | | | X | | | Paddlefish: open entire year or until closed by FWP. See Eastern District standard regulations for more information. |
| | downstream from outlet tunnels of Fort Peck Dam | X | | | | | | Closed entire year as posted. |
| | Fort Peck Dam to the mouth of the Milk River (includes Dredge Cuts) | | | | X | | | Combined Trout Limit: 2 rainbow trout daily. |
| | | | | | | X | | Open entire year for up to 2 attended or unattended lines with no more than 2 hooks per line, ***except up to 6 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with 6 hooks per line may be used to fish through the ice.*** |
| | downstream from Fort Peck Dam near Duck Island | X | | | | | | Closed from March 1 through July 31 to fishing and wading as posted. |
| NELSON RESERVOIR | (Phillips County) | | | | | X | | 2 attended or unattended lines (setlines) with up to 2 hooks per line may be used during the ice free period. |
| | | | | | X | | | Northern pike: no limit. |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for walleye, northern pike, burbot and nongame fish to spearing with rubber or spring-propoelled spears by persons swimming or submerged. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.**
**Combined Trout Limit includes salmon, grayling and all trout except lake trout.**

# Missouri River upstream from Fort Peck Dam




State Fishing Access Site (FAS)

EASTERN


Turn in Poachers 1-800-847-6668

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| POWDER RIVER and tributaries | | | | | | | X | Bow and Arrow: open for catfish. |
| ROSS RESERVOIR | aka Ross Lake (Blaine County) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through November 30. |
| SNAKE CREEK | (Bears Paw Mountains) | | X | | | | | Open third Saturday in May through November 30. |
| TONGUE RIVER | 12-Mile Dam Fishing Access Site (T&Y Dam) | | | | | X | | Open entire year for up to 2 lines with no more than 2 hooks per line. |
| TONGUE RIVER RESERVOIR | | | | | X | | | ***Crappie: 30 daily and 60 in possession.*** |
| | | | | | | | X | Spearing: open for walleye, northern pike, burbot and nongame fish to spearing with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged. |
| | | | | | | X | | Up to 6 lines with 6 hooks per line may be used to fish through ice, but the angler must be in the vicinity and within visual contact of the line(s) or rod(s) at all times. |
| ***WARM SPRINGS CREEK*** | ***(Fergus County)*** | | | | X | | | ***Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 18 inches.*** |
| WIND CREEK | (Blaine County) | X | | | | | | Closed entire year from Clear Creek road crossing to Ross Reservoir Dam. |
| YELLOWSTONE RIVER<br>See Map<br><br>(continued on next page) | | | X | | | | | Paddlefish: open entire year unless otherwise specified. See Eastern District Standard Regulations for more information. |
| | | | | | | | X | Snagging: May 1 through June 30 it is illegal to snag for nongame fish downstream from the mouth of Bighorn River. |
| | ***I-90 Bridge at Billings to the mouth of Bighorn River*** | | | | X | | | ***Combined Trout Limit: 5 daily, only 1 over 18 inches.*** |
| | ***I-90 Bridge at Billings to Huntley Diversion Dam*** | | | | | X | | ***Open entire year to 2 attended lines with up to 2 hooks per line.*** |

**Know Your Fish – Be sure you can identify sauger.**

# Yellowstone & Lower Missouri Rivers

State Fishing Access Site (FAS)

EASTERN

| Waterbody | Description | No Fishing | Season Regulation | Catch-and-Release | Special Limit | Gear Restriction | Other | Special Regulation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| YELLOWSTONE RIVER continued | ***I-90 Bridge at Billings to Cartersville Diversion Dam at Forsyth*** | | | | X | | | ***Sauger/Walleye: 5 daily, only 1 may be a sauger. Possession limit is 10, only 2 may be sauger. All fish must be kept whole, gills and entrails may be removed, until you are off the water and done fishing for the day. See Statewide Regulations for transport requirements.*** |
| | mouth of Bighorn River to mouth of Cottonwood Creek | | | | | | X | Snagging: prohibited for nongame fish. Open for paddlefish May 15 through June 30 or as posted. |
| | Intake Fishing Access Site | | | | | X | | Open entire year for up to 2 lines with no more than 2 hooks per line. |
| | | | | | | | X | Snagging: open for paddlefish May 15 through June 30 or as posted. |
| | | | | X | | | | Paddlefish: all fish caught on Wednesdays and Sundays between 3 PM and 9 PM (Mountain Daylight Time) must be released. Anglers must show evidence of current year paddlefish tag to fish. Use of gaffs is prohibited during the catch-and-release periods. |
| | Intake Diversion Dam to about 1/4 mile downstream as posted. | | X | | | | | Closed May 15 through June 30 to fishing or snagging from boats. |
| | mouth of Cottonwood Creek (4 miles downstream from Intake Diversion Dam) downstream to North Dakota border | | | | X | | | Paddlefish: open for snagging May 1 through June 30 or as posted. See Eastern District Standard Regulations for more information. |
| | | | | | | | X | Snagging: prohibited for nongame fish. |

**Possession limit is the same as daily limit unless a different possession limit is specified.**
**Combined Trout Limit includes salmon, grayling and all trout except lake trout.**

# MONTANA FISH RECORDS

If you think you have legally caught a fish in Montana that may be a state record:

- Don't clean or freeze the fish. Keep the fish cool – preferably on ice. Take a picture of the fish.
- Get the fish weighed as soon as possible on a certified scale (found in grocery or hardware stores, etc.) and witnessed by an observer. Get an affidavit from the store if no FWP official is present. Measure the length.
- Contact the nearest FWP office to have the fish positively identified and to determine if it is a state record.

| FISH (partial list) | LENGTH | WEIGHT | DATE | SITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arctic Grayling | 20.9" | 3.21 lbs. | 5/17/94 | Handkerchief Lake |
| Black Bullhead | 15.5 | 2.33 lbs. | 4/4/94 | Lower Flathead River |
| Black Crappie | 16.7" | 3.13 lbs. | 1973 | Tongue River Reservoir |
| Bluegill | 11' | 2.64 lbs. | 6/3/83 | Peterson's Stock Dam |
| Brook Trout | | 9.06 lbs. | 1940 | Lower Two Medicine Lake |
| Brown Trout | | 29 lbs. | 1966 | Wade Lake |
| Bull Trout (Dolly Varden) | 37" | 25.63 lbs. | 1916 | |
| Burbot | 39" | 17.08 lbs. | 4/18/89 | Missouri River, Wolf Point |
| Channel Catfish | 34.2" | 27.17 llbs. | 4/26/98 | Castle Rock Lake |
| Chinook Salmon | 38" | 31.13 lbs. | 10/2/91 | Fort Peck Reservoir, Face of Dam |
| Cisco | 17.25" | 1.75 lbs. | 5/19/01 | Below Ft Peck Powerhouse |
| Coho Salmon | 25.5" | 4.88 lbs. | 5/29/73 | Fort Peck Reservoir, Face of Dam |
| Cutthroat Trout | | 16 lbs, | 1955 | Red Eagle Lake |
| Golden Trout | 23.5" | 5.43 lbs. | 7/16/00 | Cave Lake |
| Goldeye | | 3.18 lbs. | 7/4/00 | Nelson Reservoir |
| Green Sunfish | 8.6" | 0.56 lbs. | 6/19/91 | Castle Rock Reservoir |
| Kokanee Salmon | 25 1/8" | 7.52 lbs | 7/24/01 | Hauser Lake |
| Lake Trout | 44" | 42 lbs. | 6/24/79 | Flathead Lake, East Shore |
| Lake Whitefish | 26 3/8" | 10.08 lbs. | 6/24/95 | Lower St. Mary Lake |
| Largemouth Bass | 22" | 8.29 lbs. | 6/11/99 | Many Lakes |
| Mountain Whitefish | 21.14" | 5.09 lbs. | 9/15/87 | Kootenai River, Below dam |
| Northern Pikeminnow | 27 1/8" | 7.88 lbs. | 5/28/91 | Noxon Rapids Reservoir |
| Paddlefish | 6'5" | 142.5 lbs. | 5/20/73 | Missouri River, Near Kipp Park |
| Northern Pike | | 37.5 lbs. | 1972 | Tongue River Reservoir |
| Pallid Sturgeon | | 60 lbs. | 5/13/79 | Yellowstone River, Near Sidney |
| Rainbow Trout | 38.62" | 33.1 lbs. | 8/11/97 | Kootenai River, David Thompson Bridge |
| Sauger | 28.2" | 8.805 lbs. | 12/12/94 | Fort Peck Reservoir |
| Shovelnose Sturgeon | 39.5" | 13.72 lbs. | 4/19/86 | Missouri River, Near Virgelle |
| Smallmouth Bass | 20.25" | 6.45 lbs. | 9/25/01 | Fort Peck Reservoir |
| Tiger Muskellunge | 45.25" | 27 lbs. | 10/2/94 | Lebo Lake |
| Walleye | 31.5" | 16.63 lbs. | 1/21/00 | Fort Peck Reservoir |
| White Bass | 16.25" | 2.25 lbs. | 9/23/98 | Missouri River, South of Bainville |
| White Crappie | 18.5" | 3.68 lbs. | 5/10/96 | Tongue River |
| White Sturgeon | | 96 lbs. | 1968 | Kootenai River |
| Yellow Perch | 14.5" | 2.37 lbs. | 3/31/88 | Ashley Lake |
| Yellow Bullhead | 11.8" | 0.93 lbs. | 5/24/98 | Tongue River Reservoir |

**NOTE: Native fish are highlighted in red. Records are accurate as of October 4, 2001. For a complete list of Montana's record fish, call or email: 406-444-3188, lkarwaski@state.mt.us**

# BOAT AND MOTOR RESTRICTIONS

All motorboats, sailboats (unless non-motorized and under 12 feet long) and personal watercraft (except canoes and kayaks) must be registered and numbered. Properly registered boats from out of state or country that will not be in Montana for more than 90 consecutive days are exempt, however, a temporary permit may be required by a county for operation of a boat. Check with the appropriate county treasurer's office.

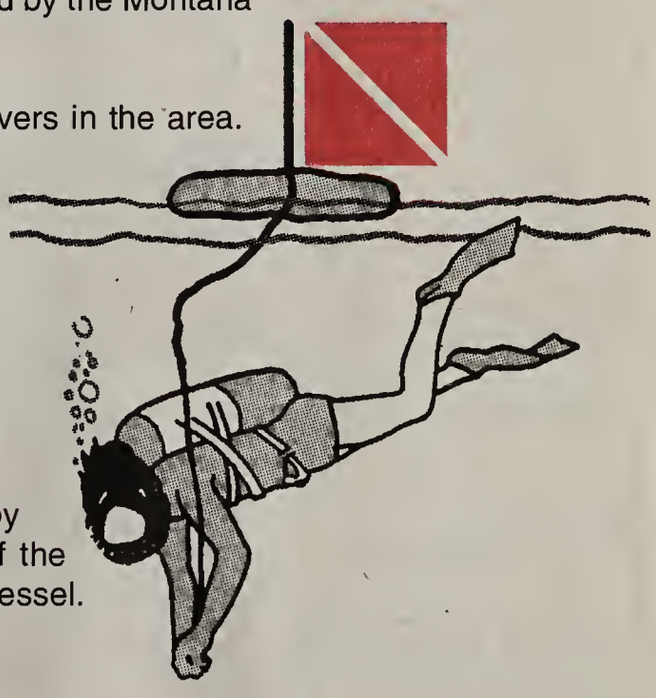
Children 12 years of age or younger may not operate a motorboat or a personal watercraft powered by a motor rated at more than 10 horsepower unless accompanied by someone 18 years of age or older. Youths 13 and 14 may not operate those vessels without possessing a valid Montana motorboat operator's safety certificate or evidence of completing an approved water safety course, unless accompanied by someone 18 years of age or older. A home-study boat course is available from FWP.

A complete, updated, copy of the Montana Boating Laws is available from any FWP office or by calling 406-444-2535. Additional restrictions may be posted at access points to specific waters. Contact the county sheriff's office or the federal agency for the area where you will be boating to find out if any additional regulations are in effect.

## General Restrictions

- Do not anchor a vessel in a position that obstructs a passageway ordinarily used by other vessels.
- Do not operate a vessel within:
  - 20 feet of a designated swimming area marked by white and orange buoys.
  - 50 feet of a swimmer in the water except for boats towing water skiers.
  - 75 feet of an angler or a waterfowl hunter unless it is unavoidable. If unavoidable, travel at no-wake speed or at the minimum speed necessary to maintain upstream progress.
  - 200 feet of a diver's flag.
- Upland game birds, furbearers and game animals may not be pursued, taken or killed from a powerboat or sailboat or any floating device in tow.
- All passengers under the age of 12 must wear a PFD at all times if the boat is less than 26 feet long. Wearable, U.S. Coast Guard approved PFDs must be available for each occupant of any boat. Boats longer than 16 feet (except canoes and kayaks) must also have a throwable type IV PFD on board.
- It is unlawful to operate or be in actual physical control of a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- All boats must carry equipment as required by the Montana Boating Laws.

**BOATERS:** This flag means there are scuba divers in the area.



Montana law requires that boats stay at least 200 feet away from a **DIVER DOWN** flag.

Violators may be subject to a fine of $500 or 6 months imprisonment, or both.
MCA 23-2-525

## Boat and Motor Restrictions

No-wake speed is defined as a speed whereby there is no "white" water in the track or path of the vessel or in created waves immediate to the vessel.

## No-Wake Zones on Lakes – Western Fishing District Only

All watercraft operating on public lakes and reservoirs 35 surface acres or less within the Western Fishing District are limited to no-wake speed. The Montana Boating Laws booklet contains a complete list of these lakes. Contact your local FWP office for a copy.

All watercraft operating on public lakes and reservoirs greater than 35 surface acres within the Western Fishing District are limited to no-wake speed from the shoreline to 200 feet from the shoreline. See the Montana Boating Laws for exceptions.

## Use Restrictions at Dams

The following dams are closed to all boating, sailing, floating and swimming or closed to all public access as marked by boat restraining systems or signs:

Black Eagle Dam, Canyon Ferry Dam, Cochrane Dam, Flint Creek Dam, Hauser Dam, Hebgen Dam, Holter Dam, Kerr Dam, Madison Dam, Milltown Dam, Morony Dam, Mystic Dam, *Noxon Rapids Dam,* Rainbow Dam, Ryan Dam, Thompson Falls Dam, Toston Dam, W. Rosebud Dam.

## Boat and Motor Restrictions on Major Fishing Waters

The following list includes only the more popular fishing waters in the state. For a complete list of restricted waterways you may obtain the Montana Boating Laws booklet from your local FWP office or check the FWP Web Page (www.fwp@state.mt.us).

• The following closures and public use restrictions are in effect for reasons of public health, safety or protection of property. Only authorized exceptions such as search and rescue craft are exempt. Some waterways have multiple restrictions that apply, so be sure to check all of the following sections for the body of water you plan to use.

• The following closures and restrictions are accurate as of January 1, 2002. Changes made in the ARM rules subsequently will be posted on individual waters or may be obtained from any FWP office.

| Body of Water | County | Boat and Motor Restrictions |
|---|---|---|
| All rivers and streams in counties in southwest Montana except:<br>• Missouri River downstream from Broadwater-Gallatin county line.<br>• Missouri River downriver from Headwaters State Park.<br>• Yellowstone River downriver from Hwy 89 Bridge, near mouth of Shields River. | Beaverhead<br>Broadwater<br>Gallatin<br>Jefferson<br>Madison<br>Park<br>Silver Bow | Closed to motorboats over 10 HP |
| Ackley Lake | Judith Basin | No special restrictions. |
| Belt Creek | Cascade | No special restrictions. |
| Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir | Big Horn | No special restrictions. |
| Bighorn River | Big Horn | Closed to all motorboats from Afterbay Dam to the Bighorn FAS |
| Bitterroot River | Missoula | Closed to all motorboats except May 1-June 30 from Florence Bridge downstream to the Clark Fork River; and October 1-January 31 for motors under 15 hp anywhere on the river. |
| Blackfoot River and tributaries | Lewis & Clark<br>Missoula<br>Powell | Closed to all motorboats above Stimson Lumber Mill Dam at Bonner. No-wake speed on Blackfoot River downstream from Stimson Lumber Mill Dam as posted. |
| Boulder River | Sweet Grass | No special restrictions. |
| Canyon Ferry Reservoir | Broadwater<br>Lewis & Clark | No-wake speed - White Earth, Goose Bay, Yacht Basin, Cave Bay, Little Hellgate, Magpie Bay, Carp Bay, and from Canyon Ferry Dam to Riverside boat ramp. |
| Clark Canyon Reservoir | Beaverhead | No special restrictions. |
| Clark Fork River | Mineral<br>Missoula | Closed to all motorboats in specified sections. Check boating regulations for details. |

| Body of Water | County | Boat and Motor Restrictions |
|---|---|---|
| Cooney Reservoir | Carbon | No-wake speed - as buoyed. Boats pulling, taking off with and landing water skiers will travel in general counterclockwise direction. |
| Flathead Lake | Flathead | No-wake speed – Bigfork Bay as buoyed. |
| Flathead River<br>• North Fork<br>• Middle Fork<br>• South Fork | Flathead | No motorboats above Camas bridge. Camas bridge to the confluence of the Middle Fork motorboats may not exceed 10 hp.<br>No motorboats above Bear Creek. Bear Creek to South Fork motorboats may not exceed 10 hp.<br>Motorboats allowed only from Spotted Bear to Hungry Horse Reservoir. Motors may not exceed 10 hp. |
| Ft Peck Reservoir | Garfield | No-wake speed – as buoyed. |
| Fresno Reservoir | Hill | No-wake speed – as buoyed and signed. |
| Georgetown Lake | Granite<br>Deer Lodge | No special restrictions. |
| Hauser Reservoir | Lewis & Clark | No-wake speed – as buoyed. Closed to all watercraft from October 15 to December 15 from Canyon Ferry Dam to below Brown's Gulch as marked. |
| Hebgen Reservoir | Gallatin | No special restrictions. |
| Holter Reservoir | Lewis & Clark | No-wake speed – as buoyed. No water skiing on Saturday or Sunday and on all legal holidays from the mouth of the canyon on upper Holter Resrvoir to Gates of the Mountains near Mann Gulch, as marked. |
| Hyalite Reservoir | Gallatin | No-wake speed. |
| Kootenai River | Lincoln | No special restrictions. |
| Lake Frances | Pondera | No special restrictions. |
| Lake Koocanusa | Lincoln | No-wake speed – as buoyed. |
| Lake Mary Ronan | Lake | No special restrictions. |
| Martinsdale Reservoir | Wheatland<br>Meagher | No special restrictions. |
| Missouri River | Gallatin<br>Broadwater<br>Lewis & Clark<br>Cascade | Closed to motorboats in specified sections. Check boating regulations for details. No-wake speed – Hauser Dam to Beaver Creek. |
| Nelson Reservoir | Phillips | No special restrictions. |
| Nilan Reservoir | Lewis & Clark | No special restrictions. |
| Noxon Rapids Reservoir | Samders | No special restrictions. |
| Rock Creek | Missoula<br>Granite<br>Carbon | No special restrictions. |
| Ruby River and Reservoir | Madison | No special restrictions. |
| Stillwater River | Stillwater | No special restrictions. |
| Swan Lake and River | Flathead<br>Lake | No wake speed from Swan Lake upstream to Porcupine Bridge. |
| Thompson River | Sanders | No special restrictions. |
| Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell) | Liberty<br>Toole | No special restrictions. |
| Tongue River Reservoir | Big Horn | No-wake speed – as buoyed and within 300 feet from shoreline. See boating regulations for details. |
| Yellowstone River | Carbon<br>Custer<br>Dawson<br>Richland<br>Prairie<br>Rosebud<br>Stillwater<br>Yellowstone | No special restrictions. |

# YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK

## Highlights of 2000-2001 Fisheries Program

Providing diverse angling opportunities is important to FWP. Montana continues to rely almost exclusively on wild, naturally-reproducing trout to replenish its rivers and streams. In lakes and reservoirs where natural reproduction is not adequate, management objectives are accomplished with hatchery-reared fish.

FWP also continues to emphasize the preservation of native fish and habitat protection with special efforts aimed at habitat that has been damaged.

Among our many accomplishments during 2000-2001 were the following:

### Fisheries Management

FWP completed a new federal aid agreement to provide funding for sport fish management including survey and inventory work for the next six years.

FWP fisheries personnel inventoried fish populations in over 450 waters in 2000-2001 to monitor health of our aquatic ecosystems and evaluate various management activities such as fish stocking, special angling regulations, and habitat improvement projects.

### Research

Montana continues to be recognized as the leader in dealing with the whirling disease problem. The Whirling Disease Task Force provides an ongoing focus on this issue. Whirling disease poses very real threats to native species, to wild non-native trout, and to recreational fishing.

All water recreationists are reminded that we still do not know enough about how whirling disease spreads to rule out many possible vectors. Although we believe that the movement of fish and fish parts is the major source of spreading the disease, it is still possible that fish-eating birds and animals, as well as anglers and other water recreationists can also move the parasite. Consequently, precautions still make sense. This continues to be an area where more research is needed.

### Habitat Protection/Improvement

The Future Fisheries Improvement Program began in July of 1995 and provides funding for projects that restore and enhance habitats for wild fish populations in streams, rivers, and lakes. Typical projects include restoration of riparian areas and stream channels to a natural condition, improving fish passage, preventing loss of fish into diversions, securing stream flow for in-stream use, and improving physical habitat features to enhance spawning and survival of fishes.

Montana's two stream protection laws, the Stream Protection Act (administered by FWP) and the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act (administered by county Conservation Districts), regulate activities that affect the beds or banks of Montana streams. FWP biologists or our representatives inspect nearly 2000 projects annually and recommend or require permit conditions that protect fish habitat.

### Species of Special Concern

The fluvial Arctic grayling recovery program continued to make progress towards restoration of this Montana native species. In addition to working to maintain the native Big Hole River grayling population, fluvial grayling have been reintroduced into the North and South Forks of the Sun River, the upper Ruby River, the Beaverhead River

near Twin Bridges, and the Missouri River near Three Forks. This is part of our effort to establish self-sustaining fluvial grayling populations in each of these rivers.

Efforts to conserve native cutthroat trout have been ongoing throughout this fish's range in Montana under the guidance of a conservation agreement that was developed for westlsope cutthroat trout. The goal of the conservation agreement is to protect existing populations and ensure the long-term persistence of westslope cutthroat trout within their historic range in Montana. In part, as a result of the ongoing conservation efforts in Montana, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that westslope cutthroat trout were not warranted for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act.

### Fish Stocking

Montana's nine state-operated hatcheries annually stock about 33 million warm water fish and 8.4 million cold water fish into waters across the state. Warm water species reared at state hatcheries include walleye, largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, channel catfish and tiger muskie. Seven strains of rainbow trout, westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat trout, brown trout, golden trout, Arctic grayling, chinook salmon, and kokanee salmon are reared in Montana. These fish are stocked in publicly or privately owned reservoirs and lakes that have public access. State hatcheries provide large, "catchable-size" , fish for the department's Family Fishing Program that facilitates easily accessible fisheries near population centers across Montana.

The state hatchery program also assists with the recovery of native fish species such as pallid sturgeon, Yellowstone and westslope cutthroat trout, and Arctic grayling by developing fish culture techniques to rear these species and providing healthy, genetically compatible fish for restoration work.

### Increased Access Opportunities

There are currently 320 fishing access sites statewide. A brochure is available that identifies the location and facilities available at most sites. These brochures are available at Regional FWP offices. On average, four to six new sites are added to the program each year. A new pilot program was funded by the Legislature in 2001 to obtain additional access from private landowners.

In 2001, FWP controlled weeds on over 825 acres at a cost in excess of $44,000. The work was accomplished in cooperation with private contractors, county weed districts, and FWP maintenance crews. FWP has made it a priority to stop the spread of weeds. You can help by driving only on designated roads and parking areas, and by giving us a call if you find a weed infested area so that we can take steps to control them.

Vandalism is a serious problem. Each year FWP spends thousands of dollars to repair damage at FAS's as a direct result of vandalism. Please call 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668) if you observe vandalism taking place.

### Enforcement

Montana wardens contacted over 50,000 anglers in 2000 to ensure compliance with regulations and protect Montana's fisheries resources. Over 1,000 citations were issued to anglers/recreationists in addition to 400 courtesy citations and approximately 1,400 verbal warnings.

Saturation patrols aimed at protecting species of special concern and detecting over limits of fish were conducted during 2000. These efforts are integral to the overall success of FWP's fisheries programs.

## RIVER ETIQUETTE

Be aware that boat access areas can be busy places; you may wish to fish in a location that is less congested.

Do not encroach on another angler's space. Use the "visual rule of crowding" and attempt to keep out of sight of other anglers, if at all possible.

Try not to monopolize a good fishing spot on the river. Fish for a while, then move on.

Understand that there are going to be instances when the wading angler should yield to floaters, because there is no other channel for the floaters to navigate.

When possible, avoid using the streambed as a pathway. This type of foot traffic can cause damage to the fragile aquatic habitat. Anglers should use the shoreline to travel from one point to the other, if doing so doesn't violate trespass laws.

## ANGLER EDUCATION

Montana's Angler Education Program has good things happening. Fishing clinics and educational events are held around the state, and often sponsored in cooperation with groups such as Walleyes Unlimited and Trout Unlimited. About 20,000 people take part in these events in Montana every year. In Montana schools, students are learning about Montana fishing and aquatic resources in FWP's "Hooked on Fishing", a program which encourages teachers to use fish and fishing as a classroom theme throughout the year.

Finally, thousands of Montana's youngest anglers are provided free subscriptions to the Montana Angling Youth, or M*A*Y Club newsletter. Children aged 12 and under can join the M*A*Y Club by sending their name and address to MAY Club, 490 North Meridian Road, Kalispell MT 59901.

## FISHING LOG PROGRAM

If you fish regularly in Montana, help us gather fishing information by keeping a fishing log. Write or call for a Fishing Log. Include your name, address and phone number with all written requests.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, MSU Campus, PO Box 173230
Bozeman, MT 59717-3230, 406-994-6838.

## SAFER FISHING TACKLE

Loons, swans, cranes and other waterbirds can die from lead poisoning after swallowing lead fishing sinkers and jigs lost by anglers. Sinkers and jigs do not have to be made of lead. To help protect waterbirds from getting lead poisoning, anglers can use sinkers and jigs made from non-poisonous materials such as tin, bismuth, steel and recycled glass.

**What You Can Do**

- Ask your local sporting goods store to stock non-lead fishing tackle.
- Use non-lead fishing weights.
- Discard old lead sinkers and jigs properly.
- Spread the word. Tell other anglers about the problem with lead and encourage them to switch to non-lead sinkers and jigs.

# THANK YOU, ANGLERS AND MOTORBOATERS!

Every time you purchase a fishing rod, reel, tackle box, lure, fishing line, an electronic fish finder, or boat gasoline, you are financially assisting many fisheries programs and motorboat access in Montana. This support is in addition to what FWP receives when you purchase a fishing license.

In 1950, the U.S. Congress passed a bill creating the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program. The legislation, supported by conservationists, anglers, tackle manufacturers, and many others throughout the nation, was modeled after the highly successful Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1939.

The Sport Fish Restoration Act created a 10 percent federal excise tax on certain fishing equipment, with proceeds to be used at the state level to improve sport fisheries. The main Congressional sponsors of the bill were Senator Dingell from Michigan and Representative Johnson from Colorado. Hence, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program came to be known as the "Dingell-Johnson" Act.

In 1984, Congress passed significant amendments to the bill, adding motorboat fuel, fish finders and other products to the list of taxed goods. Many of these products sport the Federal Aid logo. The 1984 amendments more than tripled the funding for state sport fisheries programs. Because the sponsors of that legislation were Senator Wallop from Wyoming and then-Representative Breaux from Louisiana, the Federal Aid program is now referred to as "Wallop-Breaux" or "W-B". In 1992 and again in 1998, Congress further amended the W-B program. The amendments added more money and provided for more motor boating projects.

The excise tax is initially paid by manufacturers and is ultimately passed along to the consumer in the price of the fishing products purchased. The "user pay" concept is very important: as a condition of receiving the Federal Aid funds, states cannot use their state license dollars for any purpose other than sport fisheries or wildlife management. The penalty for "diverting" license dollars to other uses is severe — any state doing so would lose its Federal Aid funds! This is one reason why state legislatures have not used license dollars to fund other government functions.

Each year, the excise tax is collected by the U.S. Treasury and then turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They return it to the states on the basis of a formula. Forty percent of the funds received are based on the land and water area of the state. Sixty percent of the funds received are based on the number of people who have purchased one or more fishing licenses. So, people who buy a fishing license contribute much more than the actual amount of license dollars they pay. FWP receives about $5 in Federal Aid funds per paid fishing license holder, which currently amounts to over $5 million a year. Since 1952, Montana has received more than $84 million in Sport Fish Restoration funds.

With revenue received from license sales and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, FWP funds a number of important programs and projects. Most of FWP's field biologists performing fisheries management work are funded with Sport Fish Restoration funds. Most of Montana's fish hatchery personnel, along with many of the major hatchery renovation projects, are also funded with Federal Aid. Other important projects include aquatic education, research, habitat protection, and angler surveys.

In addition, over 140 Fishing Access Sites throughout Montana have been maintained, improved, or originally purchased with Federal Aid. You may have noticed the Federal Aid logo on signs at these sites throughout the state.

Motor boaters also benefit from their "user-paid" Federal Aid dollars. The Act now mandates that 15 percent of the funds be used to develop and maintain motorboat use facilities. So far, 14 of Montana's water-based State Parks and many of the fishing access sites have been improved or maintained with Federal Aid motorboat access funds.

So, remember, each time you purchase that rod, reel, or other piece of fishing equipment, or put gas in your boat, you are contributing toward the conservation of sport fisheries in Montana.

Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, FWP joins the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus in prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write to FWP, Personnel Office, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620 or to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Diversity and Civil Rights-External Programs, 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 130, Arlington, VA 22203.

## MONTANA FWP FOUNDATION

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation is a non-profit corporation that has received tax-exempt status from the IRS. The mission of the Foundation, created in 1999, is to provide private support for the critical efforts of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department and to take a leadership role in preserving and enhancing Montana's natural, cultural and recreational resources for future generations.

Many are aware of our story. Elk, trout, bighorn sheep and more were harvested to near extinction for food or furs a hundred years ago. Then hunters and anglers stepped forward, with the support of landowners, and paid license fees, and later excise taxes on equipment, to fund the greatest fish and wildlife restoration program on earth.

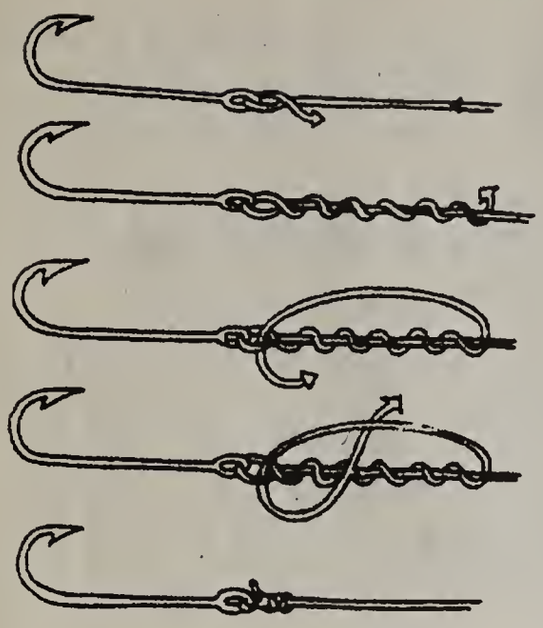
New questions and challenges now confront us. Can we do for other species what we have done for animals that provide hunting and fishing opportunities? Will we have the access necessary to enjoy our wild creatures? Can we reclaim damaged habitats, maintain our open spaces and preserve our wild places? Are historic and cultural remnants of this past century going to be preserved through the next?

Hunters, anglers and park users have and will continue to pay their fair share. The Foundation was created to help support new work. It will build an endowment of corporate donations and individual gifts to fund programs that conserve wild places, restore imperiled species, maintain access, protect unique cultural and historic parks and educate kids about the wonders of our world.

It is time for this generation to think about the legacy we will leave for the next century. When wildlife calls ... who will answer? Please consider becoming a partner in keeping the "Magic of Montana" alive for future generations.

For more information or to make a contribution, call 406-444-6759, or write Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation at PO Box 200701, Helena MT 59620-0701.

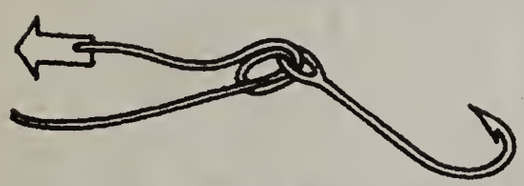
# BASIC FISHING LINE KNOTS



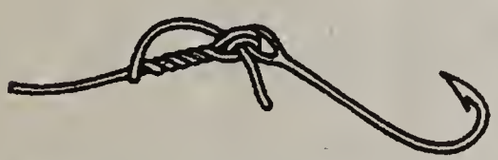
## CLINCH KNOT

1. Put the end of the line through the eye of the hook and bring it back toward the line.
2. Make five "S" twists around the line.
3. Take the end back toward the hook and push it through the first loop nearest the eye.
4. Bring the end back through the big loop.
5. Hold the hook and the line, pull the knot tight until it looks like the knot shown.

## TRILENE KNOT



1. Run the end of the line through the eye of the hook two times.

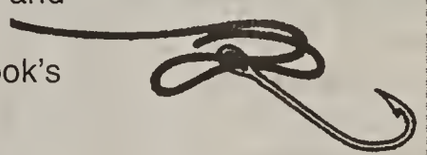


2. Loop the line around 4 or 5 times, then thread the loose end back between the two loops near the hook as shown.

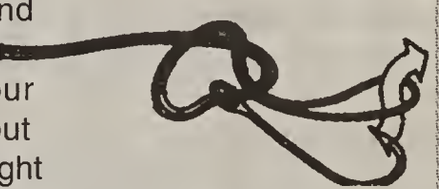
3. Pull tight. Trim the loose end.

## PALOMAR KNOT

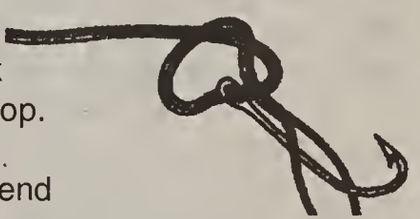
1. Start with plenty of line.



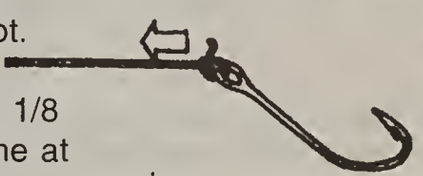
2. Double the line and pass the end through the hook's eye.



3. Tie an overhand Knot (like you were tying your shoe string) but do not pull it tight yet.



4. Pass the hook through the loop.



5. Pull the loose end of the line to tighten the knot. Trim the end. Leave at least 1/8 inch of your line at the knot.

# FOR MORE INFORMATION...

### 1-900 Hotline - 1-900-225-5397

Our information hotline offers comprehensive details to callers on a wide variety of recreation topics. The line is operational Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm MST. A $1.50 per minute charge is assessed and callers must be at least 18 years old.

### Fax and Customer Service

Customers can send a fax to FWP at 406-444-4952 or call 406-444-2535 for general information. To seek nonresident hunting license information call 406-444-2950.

### Internet—http:\\fwp.state.mt.us

Internet surfers can catch a wave of information from FWP's award winning World Wide Web site. Eight areas are covered—Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife, Parks, News, Education, *Montana Outdoors* magazine and inside FWP. Within these areas are FWP hunting and fishing regulations, FWP Talk, parks information and comment areas. The site provides links to various agencies, organizations, and news and weather services.

# DEFINITIONS

### ANGLING/FISHING

Angling or fishing means to capture or attempt to capture fish or the act of a person possessing any instrument, article, or substance for the purpose of taking fish in any location that a fish might inhabit.

### ARTIFICIAL LURE

Artificial lures include any lure (including flies) that imitates natural bait. Artificial lures do not include, however, fish eggs, any natural or artificial food, nor any chemically treated or processed natural bait.

### ATTENDED LINE

A fishing line, which is hand-held or where the angler has immediate control.

### CALENDAR DAY

A 24-hour period from midnight to midnight.

### DAILY LIMIT

The number of fish that may be legally taken during a calendar day. A fish when landed and not immediately released becomes part of the bag limit of the person originally hooking the fish even if the fish is donated to another person. If you receive fish from another angler, those fish also become part of your daily limit.

### DRAINAGE

All of the waters comprising a watershed, including tributary rivers, streams, sloughs, ponds and lakes, which contribute to the water supply of the watershed.

### DRESSED FISH

A fish which has been cleaned by removing the entrails. Dressed fish may also be filleted and/or have their head, gills and scales removed.

### ENDANGERED SPECIES

Species in imminent danger of extinction throughout their range.

### FISHING ACCESS SITE (FAS)

An area adjacent to a stream or lake which has been acquired by FWP to allow anglers access to a water body. Fishing access sites are funded in part by fishing license fees.

**FLOAT FISHING**
Includes both fishing from a boat and wade fishing when access is by boat.

**FLOAT OUTFITTING**
The operation of any boat for commercial purposes by a fishing outfitter or guide.

**HOOK**
A hook is a single, double, or treble point attached to a single shank. A lure with multiple hooks is still considered a single hook.

**HOOP NET**
A net trap designed to capture fish moving within a body of water. Hoop nets are permitted for use in certain locations in the Eastern Fishing District. A permit is required for fishing with a hoop net.

**LANDING NET**
A net attached to a frame and handle, which is used to capture fish which have been hooked by an angler.

**LEGALLY TAKEN**
Any fish caught using legal methods and not immediately released alive.

**LEGAL RESIDENT**
To be a legal resident eligible to purchase hunting, fishing or trapping licenses, you must have physically been living in Montana for at least 180 consecutive days (six months) immediately before purchasing any resident license; you must file Montana state income tax returns as a resident, if you are required to file; you must have registered your vehicles in Montana; if you are registered to vote, you must be registered in Montana; and you may not possess or apply for any resident hunting, fishing or trapping privileges in another state or country. You must show a valid Montana Driver's License or a valid Montana Identification Card when purchasing a license. If unsure of your residency status, contact a regional FWP office.

**LENGTH**
Fish length is measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail fin.

**MAINSTEM**
In a particular drainage, the mainstem is the primary stream or river into which most tributaries flow.

**NONGAME FISH**
Any wild fish not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation of this state.

**PERMANENT RESIDENCE**
The physical abode or structure you maintain as your principal, legal residence. A person may only have one permanent reidence.

**POSSESSION LIMIT**
The number of fish that may be possessed at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned, or preserved.

**RESERVOIR**
An artificially impounded body of water behind a man-made dam extending upstream to the mouth of its inlet stream(s).

**SALMONID**
Any species of trout, salmon, grayling, char or whitefish. All salmonid fish have an adipose fin (small, fleshy fin on the back near the tail).

**SEINE**
A net, usually suspended between two poles, which is pulled through the water to capture fish for bait. Seines used for this purpose must not exceed 12 feet in length and four feet in width.

**SNAGGING**
A technique of angling in which a hook or hooks are cast, trolled or lowered into the water and manipulated to embed the hook or hooks into the body of the fish. You have snagged a fish if: (a) you are fishing in a manner that the fish does not voluntarily take the hook in its mouth, or (b) if you accidentally hook the fish in a part of the body other than the mouth.

**SPEAR**
Any sharp-pointed instrument, with or without barbs, used to capture and/or kill fish by penetrating the body. Usually a spear consists of a shaft with a sharp head or point. Spears are hand-propelled or propelled with a spring, rubber band, or compressed gas.

**SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN**
Native Montana species with limited habitats and/or limited numbers in the state. Such species are at risk of becoming threatened.

**STREAM MOUTH**
The downstream point defined as a straight line running from the most downstream extremity on one stream bank to the most downstream extremity on the other stream bank or a point defined and marked by FWP.

**THREATENED SPECIES**
Species that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

**TRIBUTARY**
Any watercourse that flows into a body of water, including tributaries to a tributary.

**UNATTENDED LINE (Setline)**
Any line extended into the water and supporting one or more hooks where the angler is not in immediate control of the line. Setlines may be used on those waters specified by district regulations. All setlines must be clearly identified with the owner's complete name and address.

**VESSEL**
Every description of watercraft capable of being used as a means of transportation on water except inner tubes (motor vehicle type), float tubes (belly boats), air mattresses and sailboards when used without mechanical propulsion by one individual.

**WASTE OF FISH OR GAME**
To purposely waste any part of a game fish suitable for food by transporting, hanging, or storing the carcass or flesh in a manner that renders it unfit for human consumption; or to abandon or dispose in the field or water the carcass or flesh of any game fish suitable for food; or to use the carcass or flesh of any game fish as bait.

# Help Protect Native Species
# If you don't know, let it go!

Key to identification:

**PALLID STURGEON** are frequently mistaken for shovelnose sturgeon (see pictures below and on next two pages):

1. Look to see if the outer barbels are more than twice the length of the inner barbels. Are the barbels attached closer to the mouth than to the tip of the snout? If yes—the fish is a pallid sturgeon. Carefully release all pallid sturgeon (see page 11).
2. Sturgeon are difficult to distinguish. The shovelnose sturgeon is smaller and more common. We recommend that all sturgeon be released if you are unsure of the species.

**SAUGER** are frequently mistaken for walleye (see pictures below):

1. Look for multiple small, distinct black spots on the spiny dorsal fin (first fin on top). If yes—it is a sauger.

**MONTANA LAW REQUIRES:**

- All pallid sturgeon must be released immediately and all sturgeon longer than 40 inches must be released immediately.
- Only one sauger may be kept on the Missouri River upstream from Fort Peck Reservoir, on Fort Peck Reservoir, and on the Yellowstone River upstream from Forsyth at the Carterville Diversion Dam.

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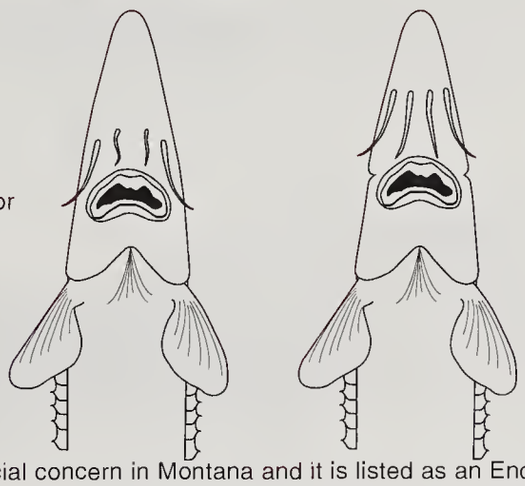
**Pallid Sturgeon**

Outer barbel 2 more times the length of inner barbel. (Be alert for broken barbels.)

Barbels attached close to mouth, about 1/3 the distance between mouth and tip of snout.



**Shovelnose Sturgeon**

Outer barbel barely longer thn inner barbel.

Barbels attached abut 1/2 the distance between the mouth and tip of snout.

The pallid sturgeon is a fish of special concern in Montana and it is listed as an Endangered Species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Pallids are a bottom-dwelling fish of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers, preferring strong currents flowing over a sandy or gravely river bottom. Learn to distinguish the pallid from the shovelnose sturgeon, a smaller and more common species. Since the sturgeon are hard to identify, we recommend that all sturgeon be released if you're unsure of the species.

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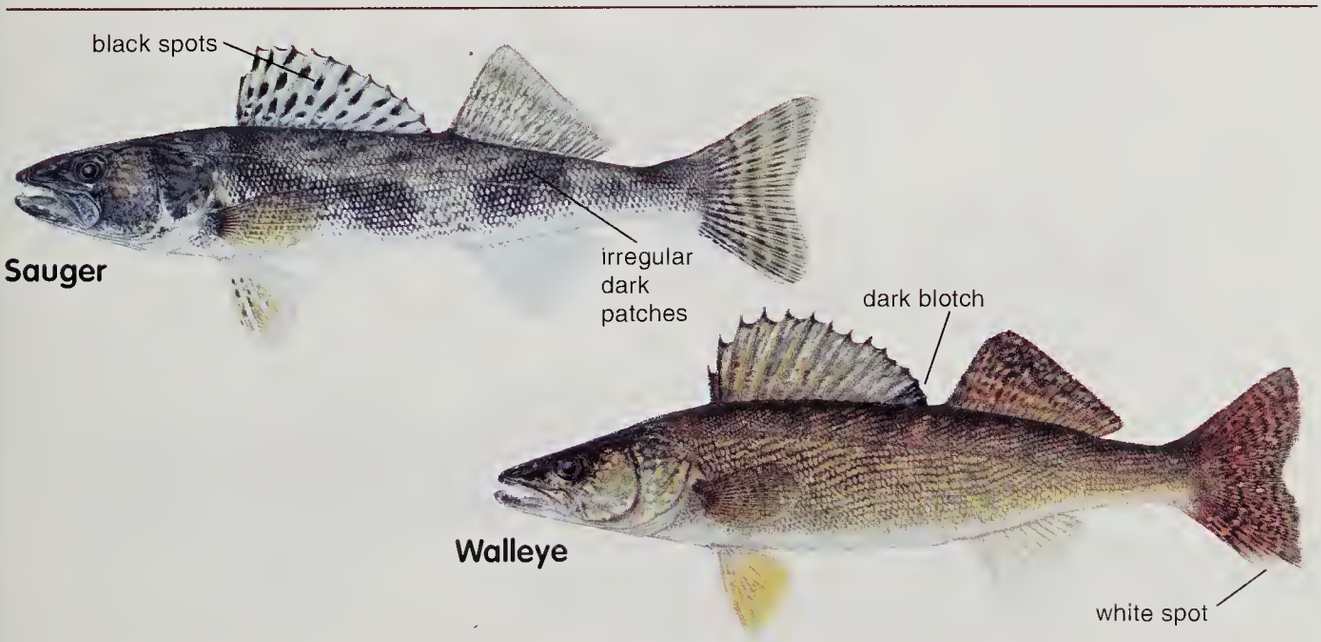


## KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAUGER AND WALLEYE

Montana State Library
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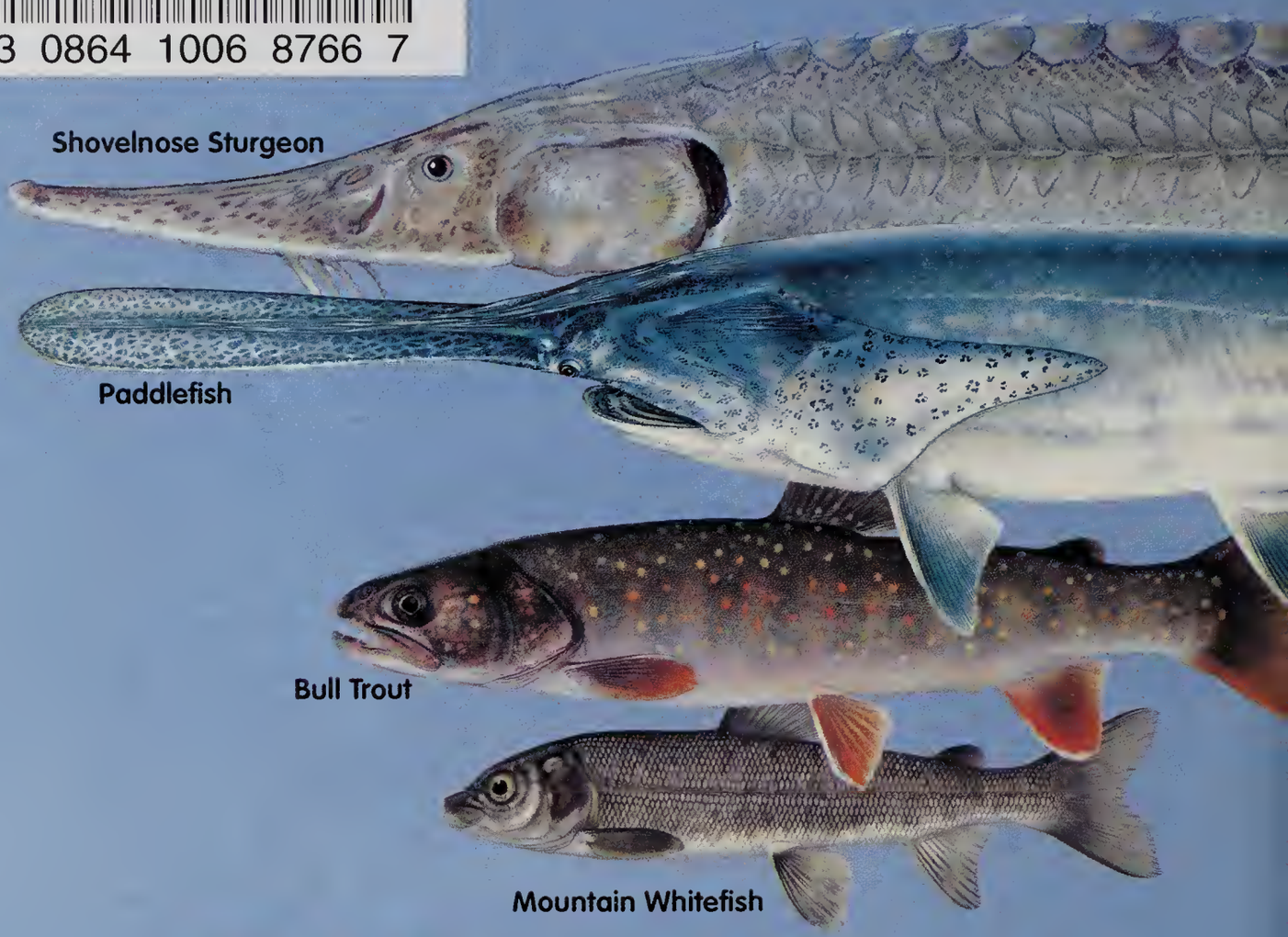


# Help Protect Native Fish

**Montana's native fish** adapted to life here over thousands of years. They've carved out a life in Montana's streams by adapting to wild spring floods, summer's drought, and those long and bitter-cold winters. They're survivors and Nature's keepers.

**All 56 of Montana's native fish** still exist in Montana waters. Eighteen native fish are classified as Montana "Species of Special Concern" and three others—the threatened bull trout, and the endangered pallid sturgeon and white sturgeon—are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

**Montana is a big place** with lots of different fishing opportunities. Of the 60 fish listed as official Montana-record catches, 30 are Montana natives. FWP is committed to providing a wide variety of fishing opportunities and to helping everyone interested in the Montana fishing experience learn more about our native fish and their habitats.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Helena, MT 59620-0701
406-444-2535
**fwp.state.mt.us**

**TURN IN POACHERS — 1-800-TIP-MONT — 1-800-847-6668**